

TODAY

10P

THIS WEEK THE McALPINE MEMOIRS

CONFESSIONS OF THATCHER'S BAGMAN

My Tory enemies and friends - gossip, spiteful, tiresome, greedy, humorous and hospitable
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TODAY

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10P

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

THE PATIENT DIRECTOR

Matt Wolf meets Britain's Oscar hope Anthony Minghella

PLUS Ballot 97: Defence

TOMORROW



PLAY TO WIN
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PLUS ME AND MRS THATCHER: The McAlpine Memoirs Day 2

WEDNESDAY

STYLE

Grace Bradberry on the essential one-button suit

PLUS

Nigella Lawson and Alan Coren

THURSDAY

DR STUTTAFFORD'S CASEBOOK

Your weekly medical briefing

BEST FOR BOOKS
Peter Riddell on Tim Bell



THE FRIDAY INTERVIEW

Valerie Grove meets Claire Bloom

PLUS

Matthew Parris and Tessa Blackstone

SATURDAY

Return of the Gypsy Rose
28 pages of romantic summer fashion

PLUS Win a designer wardrobe to die for in the Magazine

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Major's secret role in fund deal

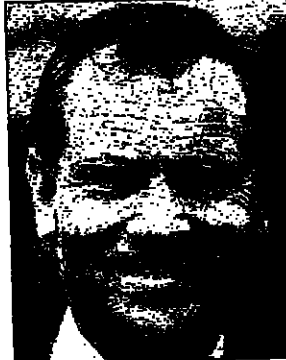
BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR'S personal involvement in securing one of the biggest overseas donations to the Conservative Party's history is revealed today.

Lord McAlpine of West Green, the party treasurer during Baroness Thatcher's 15-year tenure as leader, tells how Mr Major asked him to solicit desperately needed funds from a millionaire businessman. The benefactor, whose identity is not disclosed in Lord McAlpine's memoirs, *Once a Jolly Bagman*, which begin serialisation in *The Times* today, handed over a £500,000 cheque.

But *The Times* has learnt that he was John Latsis, the Greek shipping tycoon, who was an alleged supporter of the military junta that ruled his country between 1967 and 1974.

The disclosure that Mr Major initiated the donation will deeply embarrass the party high command. It has always been assumed that the Prime Minister kept at



Four who suffer in the McAlpine memoirs: Lord Howe, left, Lord Archer, Chris Patten and the Prime Minister

arm's length from wealthy donors, particularly from overseas.

The Tory unease will be deepened by the reopening of the wounds over the downfall of Lady Thatcher. Lord McAlpine alleges for the first time that Mr Major had an election campaign in full swing even before the first leader-

ship ballot, a fact of which Lady Thatcher was unaware.

He remarks that it was not long after Mr Major's succession, when peace was declared in the Cabinet, that civil war broke out. "The Cabinet of chums soon became a hotbed of rebellion. If a knife was missing, it could easily be found for

it would be sticking out of a colleague's back." Backbenchers were treated with even more disdain if they protested.

"Those who wrote or spoke in criticism of the Government became anathema, to be cast into outer darkness."

Few people are spared from the acerbic pen of the millionaire peer, a key

player in the Thatcher era, who has so despaired of the Tory Party that he now backs Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party. Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, regarded as one of the few senior Tories to have a foot in the Thatcher and Major camps, is savaged. While he was "likeable", he was neither a prolific fundraiser nor a confidant of Lady Thatcher. "I only hope for the sake of Britain, that no politician, hearing only good of the man, mistakenly gives him again a job of any political consequence. To do that would once more put both party and nation in considerable jeopardy."

Lady Thatcher's chief grumble about Lord Howe of Aberavon, apart from his wife Elsieph, who spent an evening in a cardboard box with the homeless, was his sheer reasonableness. "It made him quite intolerable." When she told Lord Howe in 1989 that she had decided to

Continued on page 2, col 5

Thatcher's bagman, pages 16, 17

Pregnant women 'may drink - a little'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

IT is safe for pregnant women to drink a small amount of alcohol without harming the fetus, a new report suggests. But women who drink more than three small glasses of wine a day, or the equivalent during pregnancy may harm the brains of their unborn children, according to the first authoritative survey of the risks of alcohol to the fetus.

More than two glasses a day may hinder the fetus's growth in the womb, leading to a smaller baby, the Royal College of Obstetricians says. In its first guidelines on drinking in pregnancy, the college says that although there is no evidence that drinking harms the fetus at levels up to 15 units a week, women should limit themselves to one standard drink a day to be on the safe side.

One standard drink (unit of alcohol) is half a pint of ordinary beer, a small glass of wine or a single measure of spirits. Consumption of 15 units or more a week has been associated with lower birth weight and consumption above 20 units a week has

Continued on page 2, col 6



"Bet you my mum drank more during pregnancy than yours did"



Ralph Fiennes with Francesca Annis at the London premiere yesterday of *The English Patient*, which has been nominated for twelve Oscars

Vatican urges mercy for contraceptive 'sinners'

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Roman Catholic Church has modified its position on the use of artificial contraception, urging confessors to treat couples using such methods with "mercy, discretion and respect".

A Vatican handbook for priests published on Saturday by the Pontifical Council for the Family recommends that Catholics who admit using the pill, the sheath or other forms of contraception should be given absolution, even if they carry out the "sin" repeatedly, provided they confess each time and make a commitment "not to fall again into sin".

The handbook reaffirms the Church's ban on the use of any contraceptive method, severely condemning "the intrinsic malice of every conjugal act rendered intentionally infertile", adding that

"this is definitive and unreformable doctrine". But for the first time in a Vatican document, the Church described certain cases in which confessors are invited to grant absolution generously. The handbook also calls on priests to regard with indulgence those people who "co-operate in the sin of the conjugal partner" - meaning someone who is persuaded to use contraceptives by their spouse.

The Vatican also calls for indulgence of those Catholics who use contraceptives without realising their "malice", when such people are motivated by "invincible subjective ignorance".

The guidance brings the Church's stance into line with what a large number of priests have already been doing in practice.

Albania in state of emergency

A state of emergency was declared in Albania as protesters from Vlora and other southern towns looted weapons from police and army barracks and threatened to march on the capital to bring down President Berisha.

In increasing anarchy prompted by fury over the collapse of pyramid investment schemes, nine people were killed as mobs seized weapons and set fire to buildings. Pages 13, 21

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The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

King Husain gives palace to young orphans

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

KING HUSAIN of Jordan is turning one of his palaces over to orphaned and homeless children and moving with his family into what *The Jordan Times* calls "a modest home" in Amman's suburbs.

He and his fourth wife, Queen Noor, were visibly moved by a visit to a poorly equipped home for orphans aged between one and seven years later the king issued an unprecedented royal decree instructing his Prime Minister to transform the Al-Hashemiyeh guest palace. The Sandhurst-trained monarch, a close

personal friend of the Queen, made clear that his current home, the heavily guarded Al Nadwa palace on a hill overlooking Amman, would now become the residence for Jordan's official guests. His new home will be known as the "gate of peace".

In a letter to his Prime Minister, the king, 61, wrote: "Since my visit together with Queen Noor to the Al Hussein Social Welfare Foundation, which was established to care for the orphans in 1953, my mind has not been at rest and I was deprived of sleep because of what I saw of the poor conditions in this foundation and the condition of its occupants of innocent children. What I saw there has burdened my conscience and heart."

Explaining a decision - very much in his tradition of grand philanthropic gestures - that surprised even his courtiers and may lead to calls for similar gestures by other royal figures, the king said: "All these scenes and images will not be removed from my conscience as long as I live. These innocent souls require mental, physical and moral development which we should all provide for them."

He added that the maintenance of the new children's home "will be the responsibility of the engineering unit employed by the royal court".

One palace official said: "It is very typical of the man. The children are going to love it. It has a beautiful balcony - you can just look at the nature and watch the sun set."

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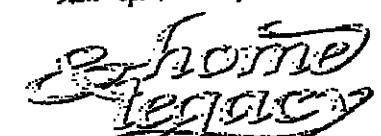
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Dorrell orders major review of patient power at Broadmoor

By Lin Jenkins
A MAJOR review of security and patient care at Broadmoor special hospital in the wake of warnings that it was reaching "breaking point" has been ordered by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. The move follows a report by the Prison Officers' Association detailing intimidation of staff by patients.

The review is the second to examine the role of the Patients' Council after criticism that it has too much influence over the way the hospital is run. The High Security Psychiatric Services Commissioning Board is already looking

at the framework of patient councils at Broadmoor and the two other high security hospitals, Ashworth and Rampton.

The 16-strong Patients' Council at the hospital in Crowthorne, Berkshire, met last Thursday after two weeks' suspension imposed when more than 100 pornographic videos were found in the room of one of its members who had tried to prevent a search being carried out. Mr Dorrell said yesterday: "Serious concerns have been raised. The management believe they have been answered. But I think, given proper public concern about these hospitals, it's impor-

tant that there is an external evaluation and that is what I am in the process of providing." He said that fashionable ideas and misguided liberalism must not be allowed to compromise security.

Andy Gossage, of the POA, wrote to Mr Dorrell a week ago warning of conditions at Broadmoor. "Control has been lost," he said. "Because of poor staffing levels, response to alarm bells is poor. We believe someone is going to be badly injured, if not fatally, if this situation does not improve."

Prison officers reported an incident of a patient who was allowed to cross-dress and stay in bed all

day. Others were allowed to refuse therapy, and there were breaches of the rules on women visitors. They said there was a shortage of experienced nurses, enabling some patients to intimidate staff.

David Evans, general secretary of the POA, welcomed the review and said that despite assurances from the hospital the problems had not been resolved. "It appears that on several occasions patients have had more say in the running of the hospital than staff. We can understand management wanting to hear the views of patients but I believe they have gone over the top with the Patients' Council." The

review will be carried out by Anglia and Oxford regional health service and will report at the end of March. Existing rules on children's visits and access to video equipment have been tightened in view of the Government inquiry into allegations of child abuse and a pornography ring at Ashworth hospital on Merseyside.

Patients' councils were introduced in 1993 at all high security psychiatric hospitals to allow patients to express their views. They have no part in the management structure. However, the review of their role already under way is considering whether, since those

elected to the body tend to be the most assertive, those who are less forceful are being neglected. It is also looking at the option of other bodies, such as Victim Support, having a forum through which they could express a view.

Broadmoor has sought to play down suggestions that the Patients' Council has influenced the way the hospital is run and has given reassurances to Mr Dorrell. A spokesman said it would be inappropriate to comment before Mr Dorrell formally announces the review and its remit to the House of Commons today. Peter Thompson, life vice-president of the

Patients' Council, said members were not allowed to try to influence key issues of security or treatment. Mr Thompson, who is also the director of the mental health and penal reform group The Matthew Trust, said: "The patients are not given enough room to be a nuisance to management and the idea that they can run the hospital is fantasy."

Prison staff at Wormwood Scrubs have agreed to accept 100 new prisoners from this morning "provided the safety of staff is not compromised". The breakthrough follows talks after a lightning strike on Saturday.

Cabinet unity on European policy is again breached

Dorrell forced to backtrack over gaffe on currency

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

STEPHEN DORRELL was forced into an embarrassing climbdown last night after becoming the first Cabinet minister to declare that Britain would not join a single currency on January 1, 1999.

The Health Secretary, intending to prevent a new internal dispute on Europe hampering the Tory fightback from the Wirral South defeat, was clearly breaching the Cabinet agreement that options would be left open on monetary union.

Only hours after Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative chairman, had said that all ministers would be expected to toe the wait-and-see line, Mr Dorrell said that "we shall not be joining a single currency on January 1, 1999."

John Major has said it is "very unlikely, though not impossible" to join in the first wave in 1999. But Mr Dorrell's statement, made on LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme, is the first time a minister has gone as far as to say Britain will not join monetary union on the scheduled date.

After discussions with Conservative Central Office, Mr Dorrell issued a statement last night saying that he entirely

agreed with the Government's position "and no words I used on the *Dimbleby* programme were intended to question it."

He then added: "We have not ruled out joining a single currency on January 1, 1999. We have said that we believe the likelihood of our doing so is extremely small."

Earlier, Labour seized on the new confusion at the heart of the Government's European policy, and Mr Dorrell, who was recently slapped down by Mr Major after a gaffe over Tory policy on a Scottish parliament, was again accused of playing to the Eurosceptic gallery.

Only two weeks ago Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, was contradicted by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, when he said the Government was "hostile" to a single currency.

When Mr Dimbleby pointed out on the programme that he had gone further than other ministers, Mr Dorrell repeated his line: "I said we shall not be joining on January 1, 1999, because we shall not be putting the legislation through on the timetable that makes that possible."

Mr Dimbleby: "I may be wrong, but I think that's the

first time that a Cabinet minister has said we will not be doing it because it will not be possible. Mr Dorrell: "I think you're right to say it is a vanishingly small possibility of us joining on January 1, 1999."

Edwina Currie, the pro-European former minister, criticised Mr Dorrell. "I get the feeling some of our Cabinet ministers seem to have stopped thinking properly," she said. "I personally had hopes that all Cabinet ministers might sing from the same hymn sheet, but there appear to be two or three different policies."

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "Has Stephen Dorrell made another gaffe or is he announcing an official change of government policy on the single currency?"

Earlier, Dr Mawhinney had warned ministers not to step out of line on the Government's wait-and-see policy on a single currency after one of his more junior colleagues issued an anti-Euro message to constituents. In a newsletter to his Bolton West constituents, Tom Sackville, a Home Office Minister, said it would not be in Britain's interests to join a single currency "now nor in the foreseeable future."



Dorrell: categorical statement on starting date

Pregnant women 'may drink — a little'

Continued from page 1
been linked with intellectual impairment in children.

The guidelines, produced for the college's 3,700 obstetrician members in the UK by its scientific advisory committee, are intended to help to inform specialists in an area where medical consensus is lacking. Some doctors maintain that moderate drinking is safe during pregnancy, while others advocate total abstinence.

Based on a review of the latest research, the guidelines say evidence on the link between social drinking and miscarriage or premature birth is inconsistent. However, there is good evidence that it has a "small negative effect" on the growth of the foetus.

Damage to brain development occurs at higher levels of drinking. The guidelines cite a study in Seattle, Canada, which found children of mothers who drank 21 or more units of alcohol a week during their pregnancies had, at age seven, IQ scores seven points lower than children of mothers who drank less. They also had poorer memories and more difficulties with reading and arithmetic.

Heavy drinkers are at risk of having a baby with foetal alcohol syndrome, who are born with a facial deformity. About a third of children born to women drinking 15 units of alcohol a day, equivalent to more than two bottles of wine, have the syndrome.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford
page 9

Ashdown slaps down merger suggestion

Paddy Ashdown ruled out the idea of a merger with the Labour Party only 24 hours after the possibility was raised by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. The Liberal Democrat leader authorised Lord Holme of Cheltenham, one of his closest personal friends and political aides, to scotch the idea. Lord Holme, speaking on BBC TV's *On the Record* yesterday, said: "I absolutely exclude any possibility of a merger with the Labour Party as being on the agenda now or at any foreseeable future."

Discussions are continuing between the two parties on a proposed electoral commission which would investigate whether to institute a system of proportional representation. A statement is expected from them both later this week although Labour sources made clear yesterday that it was not committed to moving to a system of PR.

School body attacked

A critical report to be published next week on the local education authority responsible for The Ridings School in Halifax could pave the way for the appointment of a "hit squad" to run the school. The Office for Standards in Education, whose inspectors spent a fortnight examining Calderdale education authority, West Yorkshire, will pinpoint weaknesses in the administration of the area's schools. The findings may hasten the transfer of The Ridings to a government-appointed education association.

\$2.5m Heathrow theft

Detectives investigating the theft of a bag of dollar bills worth \$2.5 million (£1.5m) from a loading bay at Heathrow Airport were questioning British Airways security and ground staff. The cash was on its way to Moscow from the Republic National Bank of New York. The money, part of a \$10 million consignment to one of the new banks set up in Russia, disappeared after being flown from America and put in a sealed container in a supposedly secure strongroom in the airport's world cargo centre.

New prison planned

The Prison Service is proposing to build a second 800-inmate jail in Birmingham after abandoning two sites in Shropshire when surveys disclosed geological problems. Officials have earmarked a site adjacent to the existing Winson Green jail on the outskirts of the city centre for the construction of the new prison. It would be built under the Government's private finance initiative which would be managed by a private sector security firm on a 25-year contract.

Prince's application

The Prince of Wales has applied for planning permission to build a 7,000 sq ft function suite at Highgrove, Gloucestershire. The application will be considered at a meeting of Cotswold District Council's planning committee on March 19. The plans show a building about 100 yards from the main house, constructed of local stone and cement render, with a roof of Cotswold stone slates to blend in with other outbuildings on the estate.

Work first for women

Women executives are more likely to put work before family than men in equivalent jobs, according to new research. Nearly a fifth of women managers said their career was more important than their home life compared to 13 per cent of male executives. Sixty per cent of women and men gave work and family equal priority. The research, compiled by the Institute of Management, showed that men and women agree that there is now far more equality in the workplace.

MORI blow for Major

An opinion poll in Wirral South, carried out after Labour's by-election victory, suggests that the result would be repeated in a general election. The findings of the MORI survey in *The Sun* today show no sign of the "bounce-back" predicted by John Major. It confirmed a 17 per cent swing to Labour. If the result was repeated nationwide Labour would sweep to power with a 296-seat majority. Eight in ten voters surveyed thought Labour would win the election.

Finders keepers

A woman who left her car parked in the street for nine months after injuring her hand discovered that it had been legally transferred to a new owner, Ann Lucas of Wandsworth, south London, was told by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency that the vehicle had been presumed abandoned and was registered to the man who reported it when he applied for it. The agency could not contact Miss Lucas because she was staying with friends.

Building a new image

The enduring image of the British builder who displays his ample bottom while leering at every passing female is about to be demolished. Industry image makers have decided to recast the lazy, wolf-whistling bricklayer — satirized by the comedians Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders — as a good, honest bloke. Jewson, the builder's merchant, today launches the £3 million campaign to "highlight the human dimension of the building trade."

Tories may use televised debate as last card

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR and his advisers are likely to decide against a presidential-style televised debate with Tony Blair. Although the option will be kept open, the idea of an early debate will be rejected by a strategy meeting at Conservative Central Office today.

Tory sources predicted yesterday that logistical difficulties, such as the choice of presenter and agreeing a format that satisfied Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, would preclude such a debate. But they insisted that the option had to be kept alive in case it became Mr Major's last card.

There have been reports of disagreements involving Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Cranborne, the Downing Street chief of staff, and the advertising guru Lord Satchell. Dr Mawhinney, speaking on BBC's *Breakfast* with Frost yesterday, declared: "I'm in charge of the Conservatives' election strategy and performance and I am very happy with that responsibility."

The meeting will agree the latest Tory poster, to be unveiled tomorrow. It will replace the "lion" campaign which became a source of mirth at Central Office. The new poster will ask how Britain "can afford to pay" for a Labour government. In a speech tonight to the British Retail Consortium, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will

argue that the Tories' spending plans were sustainable, unlike Labour's. The Tories' latest campaign strategy is intended to "scare" voters away from Labour. On Thursday, Mr Heseltine will open a Commons debate on public spending which will be used to attack Labour. After the Tories' crushing defeat in last week's Wirral South by-election, many backbenchers, including the former Tory chairman Sir Norman Fowler, are pressing for Mr Major to agree to a televised debate. Mr Major, who is opposed to the idea, has been advised that it would be unhelpful. The Tories fear that that there would be little opportunity for Mr Major and Mr Blair to cross swords.

One of the biggest problems for Central Office would be Mr Blair's appearing on the same platform as Mr Major. They wish to project the Prime Minister as an international statesman, and Mr Blair as untried and untested.

Mr Blair's office are "extremely keen" on the idea of a debate, "anytime, anywhere". A complaint by Charles Lewington, the Tories' director of communications, that the BBC had shown left-wing bias was yesterday dismissed by George Walden, the Tory MP for Buckingham. "If anything the BBC have been a bit tougher recently on Labour," he said. Richard Ayre, deputy head of BBC News, rejected Mr Lewington's claims.

Major's secret role in fund deal

Continued from page 1
move Mr Major to the Foreign Office, he replied: "Wonderful, he will be a great help to me." He had not realised Mr Major was taking his place. The resignation speech which triggered the leadership contest followed the next year.

When Lord Parkinson, whom Lord McAlpine accuses of being a helpless gossip, worked at Central Office he sat opposite a woman with a

facial twitch which made it seem as if she was winking. "It was not long before Cecil was winking back."

But it is the passage on fundraising which will cause the alarm to the leadership. The £500,000 donation, the largest Lord McAlpine received in his 15 years as a fundraiser, will be seized on by the Opposition.

It came in the summer of 1991 when Chris Patten, then

party chairman, had called Lord McAlpine to see the Prime Minister at the House of Commons. "John Major asked would I help them out? There was a rich man... a large donation would be most helpful."

Lord McAlpine agreed to a clandestine meeting. Only Mr Major and Mr Patten knew it was going to take place. He saw Mr Lais the next night. He handed over the cheque.

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A black and white portrait of a man with dark, wavy hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. The image is framed by a thick black border.

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Trawlers blamed as 400 dead dolphins are washed ashore

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

HUNDREDS of dead dolphins have been washed ashore on the coast of western France in recent weeks. Scientists believe that they were killed accidentally by fishing boats and that many more must have died.

The discovery of 400 carcasses will strengthen pressure on the European Commission to back new rules aimed at making fisheries safer for dolphins.

Dr Peter Evans, a marine mammals expert at Oxford University and the Sea Watch Foundation, who has been monitoring the strandings, said yesterday: "Many more must have been killed, with possibly only a relatively small proportion seen on shore. This rate of kill is unsustainable."

Many of the dolphins are thought to have come from waters off southern England. In January about 40 harbour porpoises and common dolphins were also washed

ashore dead on Cornish beaches. Conservationists are linking the two incidents. They believe that trawlers scooping up mackerel down the British coast, through the Channel and down the French coast may have accidentally entangled an unprecedented number of dolphins.

The deaths on the French coast, between Nantes and 200 km south of Bordeaux, have been chronicled by Dr Anne Collet, of the Research Centre for Marine Mammals in La Rochelle. She said yesterday that more than three quarters of the marine mammals, mainly common dolphins but a few striped ones and a handful of harbour porpoises, a pilot whale and two fin whales, showed cuts and severed tails consistent with being caught and killed by fishing gear.

In 1989 more than 500 animals were also washed ashore at about the same time of year. But tests could not link

them with fishing activity. But this time there was little doubt, Dr Collet said. "There are clear signs of the animals having been killed, rather than having died from natural causes."

The scientist, who will disclose full details at a meeting of the European Cetacean Society in Stralsund, Germany, said the dolphins had been killed up to two months ago. That dating has helped experts to link the Cornish and French coast incidents.

There is growing pressure on European nations, including Britain, to introduce safeguards to make fishing boats less environmentally destructive in the key areas of the Celtic Sea, the Bay of Biscay and the North Sea.

Modern trawlers often work in pairs, pulling vast nets across the seas at high speed. Environmentalists believe the scale of the operations gives the dolphins and porpoises little chance to escape.



Bernadette McAliskey said doctors predict a difficult birth for her daughter

Outcry feared if baby taken from McAliskey

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

MICHAEL HOWARD is being warned by MPs from across the political spectrum that he will hand a propaganda coup to Sinn Féin if the pregnant daughter of Bernadette McAliskey is separated from her baby in prison.

The Home Secretary has been told that a campaign in support of Roisin McAliskey, led by her mother, has been gathering momentum in America and Ireland and risks creating an "international cause célèbre". Several dozen members of Fianna Fáil, the Irish political prisoners campaign, picketed Downing Street yesterday demanding her release.

Miss McAliskey, 25, who is expected to give birth in May, is being held at Holloway Prison awaiting extradition to Germany on charges of attempted murder and possessing explosives. The case is linked to an IRA mortar attack on a British Army base in Germany last June. She has been refused bail while she challenges the extradition.

Mrs McAliskey, who led a civil rights campaign in Northern Ireland in the late 1960s, said she was concerned for the welfare of her daughter and the unborn child. "If she is not allowed to keep the baby, we will be left with a young woman who, in medical opinion, will have gone through a difficult birth and will have no child to show for that. We will be left with a child that literally is deprived

of its mother's milk." Miss McAliskey has asked the Prison Service to transfer her to Holloway's mother and baby unit, which is not designed to hold high-risk prisoners.

Richard Tilt, the Director-General of the service, said that he hoped to reach a decision quickly. He conceded that the delay was putting pressure on Miss McAliskey but said that social services and childcare specialists were being consulted.

Peter Temple-Morris, the Conservative co-chairman of the Anglo-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body, said at the weekend that Miss McAliskey should be allowed to keep her child. The MP for Leominster will hear representations from Irish MPs on behalf of Miss McAliskey at today's meeting in Dublin of the inter-parliamentary group.

He said that he would raise the case with Mr Howard after the election. "This has the potential to become an international cause célèbre. I am anxious that we should move on this."

His comments reflect concern among some Tory and Labour MPs that Miss McAliskey's case could fuel a campaign against Britain. A republican group in America is inundating the British Embassy in Washington with e-mail messages. Irish politicians have visited Miss McAliskey in prison. A group of MEPs will visit her this week.

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PRUDENTIAL

Original Oxfam shop runs out of volunteers

THE first Oxfam shop that opened in 1942 is appealing for help after being hit by a shortage of volunteers. As a result the three-storey shop in Oxford is having to cut its opening hours.

Oxfam shops nationwide are suffering similar problems because of competition from other charity shops and pressure on time deterring potential volunteers.

Jan Tansley, a 52-year-old volunteer who runs the shop on its original site in the centre of Oxford, said: "It does seem sad that the city where it all began seems to be turning its back on us. We only have 20 volunteers out of the 40 which we need. We desperately need more or face the possibility that we could shut."

Oxfam was set up at the Victorian premises in Broad Street by a Quaker group collecting clothing for people in Greece during the German occupation. By 1947 it had attracted so many surplus donations that the offices had to be converted into a shop. The charity now has an annual turnover of £30 million, and provides aid in more than 70 countries. Britain has 850 shops, staffed by 26,000 volunteers. Malcolm Curtis, a spokesman for Oxfam, said: "All the shops need more volunteers because people's social circumstances have changed. Although everyone seems just as committed, nobody seems to have as much time available to help out. Also there is more choice. In the last 10 years we have started facing competition in the high street from more than 20 other retail charities."

Ex-Gurkhas march for pay parity

More than 12,000 retired Gurkhas and their families marched through Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, on Sunday to demand that the British Government extend new benefits to them.

Gurkhas still active in the Army are to be paid the same as their British counterparts and be allowed to bring their families to Britain.

The former servicemen carried placards which read: "We Gurkhas fought the British war, now we will fight for our own rights."

Pirate returns

The pirate station Radio London is planning to return this summer, 30 years after its enforced closure by the government in 1967. It hopes to start broadcasts from a disused lighthouse close to its original offshore site near Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

Dunblane guns

Guns used by Thomas Hamilton in the Dunblane shootings are being held in a police storeroom, six months after they were ordered to be destroyed. Ann Pearson, of the anti-guns campaign Snowdrop, said the news would horrify the victims' families.

Elgar surfaces

A bronze bust of Sir Edward Elgar, stolen last May from its plinth in Malvern, has been found in a farmland pool. John Tretheway, chairman of the district council, said: "He has gone a little bit green but a scrub with soap and water should do the trick."

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THE TIMES MONDAY MARCH 3 1997

Art may imitate political life, in the tastes of Blair and Major

Damian

Whitworth

considers what

Tony Blair

may hang on

walls of No 10

DOWNING STREET may be about to witness a change in artistic taste as well as political leadership.

Prime Ministers are allowed to request pictures from government collections and the nation's great galleries to hang on the walls at Number 10. Tony Blair has declared that his "wish list" is for works by European masters, which would replace John Major's overwhelmingly British collection if Labour wins the general election.

An article for today's edition of *Mag*, the magazine of London museums and galleries, discloses that Mr Major has reorganised the art collection at Number 10 to display an enthusiasm for modern British art. A selection from the Tate, including *The Quiet River: The Thames at Chiswick 1944*, by Victor Pasmore, is shown in the first floor ante-room.

The Prime Minister has also added such Constables as *Yarmouth Jetty* and *Branch Hill Pond*, *Hampstead Heath* to the Turners chosen by Margaret Thatcher. "Mr Major believes that British pictures are fitting for the residence of the British Prime Minister," said his office. A Corot landscape is one of the few remaining paintings by foreign masters at number 10.

Mr Major has brought in two pictures related to his beloved cricket: a portrait of W.G. Grace by Archibald Wirtley from the National Portrait Gallery and *An Exact Representation of the Game of Cricket*, after a 1760 Louis Boitard engraving. The Prime Minister's favourite picture at Number 10 is Richard Bonington's *La Côte Normande* of 1820 which he described as "full of light from the sky and sea — almost like having an extra window in the room".

Mr Blair has a love of Renaissance, Dutch, Spanish, Post-Impressionist and British art, his office said. The works of the Renaissance artist Piero della Francesca would be top of his list. His office said that he "adores Piero's paintings for their strength, humanity and depth of feeling", and he named as particular favourites Piero's *Nativity* and *The Baptism of Christ*, which hang in the National Gallery. His office provided a list of



View of Delft, by Vermeer, and Piero della Francesca's *The Baptism of Christ*. Both artists are favourites of the Labour leader, who might wish to change the paintings in Downing Street if elected



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Princess libel is blamed on forgery

By ALAN HAMILTON

A NEWSPAPER promised yesterday to find out the motive behind a forgery that led to its false report that Diana, Princess of Wales, intended to keep half the proceeds from the forthcoming charity auction of 80 of her evening dresses.

The Princess has accepted a substantial out-of-court settlement from *The Express*. Last week she issued a writ for libel. Yesterday's issue carried a front-page apology, claiming that the paper had been misled by a forgery. It said that it had paid a "substantial" sum to the Princess but would not confirm reports that the amount was £75,000.

In its story, which originated in America, *The Express* claimed to have seen contract documents relating to the sale which showed that only half the money raised by the Christie's auction in New York would go to charity. The sale is expected to make up to £4 million.

Richard Addis, the Editor of the newspaper, who was named in the writ, said yesterday: "We are pleased that we have settled matters with the Princess. All sides have agreed that there will be no further statements."

In its Opinion column inside the paper, *The Express* said: "As can sometimes happen, we were unwittingly deceived by an elaborate forgery. We are now consulting lawyers about our next course of action against those who were responsible for it. We are determined to discover what was the motivation behind the story."

New moon heralds comet of century

By NIGEL HAWKES

ONE of the great comets of the century will be visible in the evening sky next week. Astronomers are uncertain how bright Comet Hale-Bopp will appear, but so far it is following predictions and is steadily increasing in brightness as it approaches the Sun.

The best time to observe the comet is after the next new Moon on Sunday. Hitherto Hale-Bopp has been visible just before dawn, but later this month it will be visible just after sunset on the northwestern horizon.

Hale-Bopp is the third brightest comet seen since 1400. But its closest approach to the Earth, on March 22, will be 122 million miles, much further away than last year's comet, Hyakutake, which came within 9.3 million miles.

That means it will not be sensationally bright, but should be as bright as the brightest stars, making it visible with the naked eye even from towns. It will be visible until at least May.

Hale-Bopp was discovered on July 23, 1995, by Alan Hale, a space scientist in New Mexico, and Thomas Bopp, an amateur astronomer in Arizona. They both reported a fuzzy spot in the constellation Sagittarius, and within hours the International Astronomical Union had named the comet after them.

Nobody is sure how large Hale-Bopp is, but studies using the Hubble Space Telescope suggest it is about 25 miles in diameter. Halley's Comet is a quarter the size.

Phantom planet, page 15

BALLOT 97

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

7. Defence

Forces may be in for new round of upheaval

PUBLIC pride in the Armed Forces and support for a strong national defence are among this country's most enduring political facts, barely affected either by the end of the Cold War or by the greater readiness to question other national institutions such as the monarchy, the law or even the Church. No matter how firmly voters insist that health and education are their priorities, they still punish political parties which they suspect of a cavalier attitude to defence.

Until this year, defence has been a stretch of clear blue water where Conservative supremacy was never in doubt. Between 1983 and 1992, the gap stayed almost constant despite Labour's abandonment of its commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament in 1988 (see chart below). With Labour Party conferences still demanding that Trident be scrapped and defence spending cut back to the West European average, and with left-wing revolts in Parliament against the defence estimates, Neil Kinnock protested in vain that the discarding of

unilateralism symbolised a generally more robust posture.

If the gap has finally narrowed, it is, worryingly for the Tories, for the interesting reason that 43 per cent of voters now say they are not sure. Is this because defence has become almost a non-issue? Or is it because new Labour, most of whose Shadow Cabinet are former supporters of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, has succeeded in changing its public profile? Since 1992, when David Clark became Shadow Defence Secretary, Labour has tried to blunt the Tory sword by broadly supporting government defence policy. Mr Clark claims that "on a whole range of things there is now consensus".

Yet in recent weeks, the dog that appeared safely asleep has begun to stir. If it defies expectations by sitting up and barking during the election campaign, however, it will be thanks less to Michael Portillo than to Tony Blair. Last month, the Labour leader unexpectedly drove a tank into Tory territory, berating the Conservatives for "the largest

reduction in our military capability since the war", involving steep manpower cuts to the Army, Navy and Air Force and the loss of "vital high-tech skills" in the defence industry, which had shed 190,000 jobs since 1990. The result, he said, was that Britain could no longer mount a Falklands-type operation and was unlikely to be able to repeat its performance in the 1991 Gulf War. He promised "our servicemen and women, overstretched and under strength as never before", that a Labour government would provide them with "strong leadership and a coherent strategy for modernisation".

The military has, as the next article records, been through such a traumatic downsizing and reorganisation since 1990 that Mr Blair's words will strike a chord with many in the Services, where morale and recruitment have been badly affected. The criticism that Tory policy has been Treasury-driven rather than strategy-led is shared by a number of senior commanders. But Mr Blair's deci-

sion to take the offensive could expose Labour to Tory counter-attacks which it is ill-equipped to repel.

At the personal level, Mr Blair was rash to single out the Falklands War. He was not even an MP then and his views on defence have changed; but at the time, he is on record as saying that "given the starkness of the military option, we need to compromise on certain things" and that Britain's position should not be determined by the wishes of the Falkland Islanders.

Labour has half-protected its flank on the nuclear issue by committing itself to the fourth Trident nuclear-armed submarine; but it intends to seek a multilateral "no first use" accord. This, the Tories charge, would negate Trident's deterrent effect. At the broad policy level, it is risky for the Opposition to attack spending cuts which it says it has no intention of reversing. Since Mr Blair contends

that the Tory defence cuts have resulted in "a damaging gap between commitments and resources", it follows that under a Labour government something would have to give.

Above all, the Conservatives will challenge Labour to explain how its promise to the Services of a "period of stability" is compatible with its pledge to conduct a strategic defence review. Unless it amounts to a comprehensive reassessment of Britain's interests, commitments and capabilities, the exercise is pointless. A grand strategic rethink is what Labour, which criticises the Tories for incoherent, short-term cost-cutting, has promised. But that would expose the Armed Forces to further uncertainty, followed by more unsettling "modernisation".

Mr Clark insists that Labour does not see this review as a cost-cutting exercise, and Mr Blair has promised to keep to current spending plans for two years. But if Labour concluded that Britain should reduce either its commitments or its military capabilities,

pressure on the defence budget would — legitimately — start to mount the day after the review's publication. John Reid, Mr Clark's junior colleague, says that Labour will honour every defence contract signed by the Government, including the Westland EH101 helicopter and the Challenger II tank. But this has yet to be confirmed by Mr Blair, Mr Clark or the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Mr Clark does say that the review could have "painful consequences". Labour declines to spell these out, saying that it does not want to prejudice the review's conclusions. Some of the few commitments it has made, such as the earmarking of troops and equipment to a United Nations standby force, could be expensive — and add to the Forces' overstretch that Labour criticises. That would make Britain's £15 billion involvement in the Eurofighter project a temptingly large target. Britain has already invested heavily in Eurofighter development, but the actual order for 232 fighters, at a cost of about

£8 billion, is not due until next year.

Steep cuts could be in store. Academic advisers such as Bradford University's Malcolm Chalmers say that Britain could reduce force levels over the next six years as much as it has since 1990, cutting the defence budget from 2.8 per cent to 2 per cent of GDP — but that to win public assent for this, "it will be important not to make large additional defence cuts in the first two years of a new government". This is not realistic: cuts on this scale would leave an army of 78,000, just enough to cover Northern Ireland, the UK and a tiny bit of gendarmerie around the world. Only a handful of left-wing MPs would vote for that; but this does not mean that defence will not come under enormous pressure as Labour struggles to stay within Conservative spending targets. One key difference between the Tories and Labour is that a Tory Defence Secretary must always watch his back in the Commons; Labour backbenchers will never resist defence cuts as Tories would.

Tories made mistakes but had the right idea

THE Armed Forces felt the impact of Tory radicalism later than most British departments of state. The lesson Margaret Thatcher drew from Sir John Nott's ill-starred strategic review in 1981, which ordered a dramatic reduction in naval power only months before the Falklands War, was that the only safe military strategy for Britain was to be prepared for the unexpected. Between 1979 and 1985, the defence budget rose as a proportion of GDP, from 4.5 per cent to 5.3 per cent. That was partly a response to US demands for greater European burden-sharing but it was also true that for most of the 1980s the situation in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union was, as she argued, too fluid to risk cuts in defence.

But when the axe was finally taken out of the cupboard in 1990, it cut deep. *Options for Change* was not presented as a strategic review. That was true in the sense that it was a tightening and rebalancing more than a radical rethinking. It did recognise, ahead of most Western countries, that the reduced Soviet threat implied a shift from huge static armies in Central Europe to more mobile, flexible forces. But although *Options* reduced manpower and cut the budget by 12 per cent, its working assumption was that increased commitments elsewhere would more than offset the diminished threat in Europe and that reorganisation must leave adequate spare capacity to deal with the unexpected.

The unexpected was not slow to materialise. In the 1991 Gulf War, the British Army of the Rhine had to be cannibalised to equip Britain's armoured division for Operation Granby. The lesson was that if Britain wanted first-class fighting formations within existing budgets, it would have to

THE RECORD

shed manpower and reorganise. The new motto: smaller, but vastly better equipped.

There followed the most far-reaching attempt to remodel British defence since Labour abandoned Britain's commitments east of Suez. In retrospect, the most important sentence in *Options* was the seemingly innocuous pledge to keep Britain's military strength under constant review in the light of circumstances. The 1991 Defence White Paper announced cuts in overall manpower of a fifth over five years — most controversially, for Tory backbenchers, by cutting the number of infantry battalions from 55 to 36. By pulling the RAF out of Germany and more than halving the British Army of the Rhine, it also cut the range of commitments — by 1995, 90 per cent of the RAF and three quarters of the Army were to be home-based. Nato simultaneously developed its New Strategic Concept and the important Nato decision in May 1991 that gave Britain command of the new multi-nation Rapid Reaction Corps speeded the switch to more mobile and flexible formations.

The Government promised no further reductions. But with British defence spending still well above the Nato and European average, the Treasury kept the MoD in its sights. In 1993, in an effort to prove that there was no more peace dividend to be cashed, the MoD presented a detailed breakdown of costs which matched each major item of equipment to the relevant military task, marrying resources, capability and commitments. An unconvinced Treasury extracted a further £1 billion in cuts, which bore down on equipment because the deployment of 5,000 Brit-



Margaret Thatcher, champion of a strong defence, learnt an invaluable lesson from the pre-Falklands War review

ish troops in Bosnia had so seriously overstretched Army manpower that planned strength had to be revised upward. The really radical foray into the defence budget was, however, yet to come.

Frontline First, the 1994 Defence Cost Study, searched every cranny of Services practice. The laudable aim was to offset both the 1992-96 cuts and the further savings of £750 million a year thereafter demanded by the Treasury, by eliminating waste in military support services to extract better value for the Services as a fighting force.

This inquisition turned the Services inside out, radically questioning entrenched methods of operation. It targeted not only desk jobs and civilian manpower, but support services such as special military hospitals, schools, transport and the military's antiquated inventory systems. Surplus MoD property and landholdings, including some bases, were marked for disposal. Much of this tail had grown during the decades of a massive British presence in Germany; and findings justified the contention that Defence could safely adopt many of the "best practice" methods

found in civilian industry. To improve operational readiness and frontline effectiveness, the first genuinely tri-service permanent joint headquarters was created at Northwood. It commands the Joint Rapid Deployment Force, one of the most important results of *Frontline First*; based around 3 Commando and 5 Airborne Brigades, it is intended to project military power rapidly over long distances.

The bargain struck with the military was that a good part of these savings would be ploughed into improved weaponry — and that this would be the last government foray into its broom-cupboard. Thereafter, force levels would be held stable. The 1994 Defence White Paper explicitly stated: "There will be no cuts to our front line, even if our commitments reduce." This pledge was sorely needed: between 1992 and 1996, the Services shed 90,000 jobs, two thirds of them military. It made sense to strip out duplication and create thinner and more rational command structures, particularly near the apex of the pyramid. Above all, the reforms enabled spending on major equipment to rise by 15 per cent between 1995 and

2000. But there were mistakes along the way.

The impact on morale and motivation had been severe. By 1996, recruitment had fallen off so badly that the Army, 5,000 below strength, had to resort to such emergency measures as re-enlistment bonuses for ex-soldiers, retention bonuses for highly skilled troops applying for early release and bounties for soldiers who recruited a friend. Many recruiting offices, which should never have been closed, were reopened. And where the public was concerned, insensitive handling of the cuts left the image of squaddies getting their redundancy slips while making a magnificent job of tough assignments in Bosnia.

In such a massive overhaul of Britain's military capabilities, critics can find plenty of ammunition — but not enough to justify Labour's sweeping charge that the Tories have bungled the post-Cold War readjustment. In common with its Nato allies, Britain has yet to develop a convincing defence strategy against the growing threat from ballistic missiles, which may soon be possessed by 35 non-Nato countries. There has been dramatic progress in Anglo-

French defence co-operation, but on procurement, there is an obvious need for more European collaboration although Labour may underestimate the extent to which this is bedevilled by the determination of each country to skew orders for the sake of jobs and the problems engendered by France's failures to rationalise its defence industry. Recruitment levels have recovered since last year but still cause concern.

The overall record is still credible. Since 1989, past theories of defence and deterrence have been in the melting pot. With the flexibility built into the "rolling review" concept, Britain has moved faster than most to adapt strategy, update missions, improve mobility and firepower and develop an integrated military doctrine for all three services. The military now needs time to implement these huge changes. But politicians seek power in order to change things. If Labour comes to power after 18 years in opposition, that is the truism against which Blair's promise of "stability" will have to be measured.

Next week:
Scotland

■ MICHAEL PORTILLO

Age: 43

Education: Harrow, history at Cambridge.
Experience: 1976-84: Conservative Research department and special adviser roles in Energy, Trade and Industry and Exchequer. MP for Enfield Southgate since 1984; Whips' Office, DHSS, Transport, DoE, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Employment Secretary, Defence Secretary since 1995.

Politics: Eurosceptic standard-bearer for younger generation of Tory Right; did not challenge Major in 1995 but hat would be in the ring if Tories lose election.

■ DAVID CLARK

Age: 57

Education: Windermere Grammar; economics, Manchester; PhD in management, Sheffield.
Experience: MP for Colne Valley 1970-74, and South Shields since 1979. Resigned from defence frontbench team over unilateralism in 1981, but stayed on front bench, moving to environment and, in 1987, to agriculture; defence since summer 1992.

Politics: moderate; keen environmentalist. Enthusiast for greater EU defence co-operation short of giving the EU "a military competence". Prepared to reduce



Performance: solid work at Whitehall undermined by political errors of judgment, notably "who dares wins" speech at 1995 party conference, which greatly offended the military.



or cut commitments that other Nato allies can cover. Performance: hardly a Labour flyer. No expert on defence, but assiduous. Has denounced MoD as the "ministry of waste".

WHAT THEY SAY

Many Labour Members would like to reduce our Armed Forces to the armed wing of Oxiam.

Michael Portillo, Feb 1997
Any talk about a greater European defence identity must be based on European capabilities.

Michael Portillo, Feb 1997
Our Services should not be subject to the same lack of coherent strategy and piling on of new demands which has been the hallmark of the

present Government's policies in recent years.

Tony Blair, Feb 1997
Labour's defence review will be a blueprint for the future of our Armed Forces. But it will not be set in stone.

David Clark, Oct 1996
People should not be discharged from the military simply on the basis that they're gay.

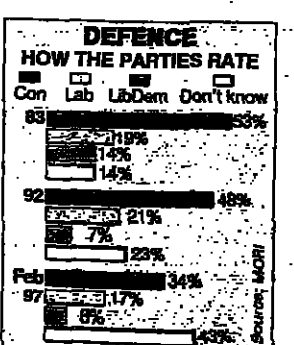
David Clark, May 1996

THE FACTS

□ The Armed Forces as of April 1997: Navy, 46,000; Army, 110,000; RAF, 57,000. Planned strength, 1999: Navy, 46,400; Army, 114,000; RAF, 56,000.

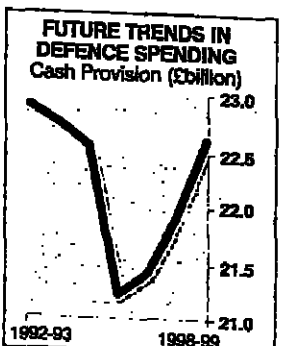
□ Budget in constant (1994) prices: 1996-97: £20.29bn; 2.8 per cent of GDP (EU Nato average, 2.3 per cent); 1998-99: £20.26bn (2.7 per cent of GDP). Of current budget, £9.05bn (more than 40 per cent) is spent on procurement.

□ Missions: to ensure the security of the UK and dependent territories, including support to civil authority as in Northern Ireland; to contribute to Nato and WEU new mis-



sions, including military assistance and training; to provide military assistance in support of international order and humanitarian principles; to contribute forces in event of serious conflict outside Nato area which could seriously threaten British interests or affect European or international security; to respond to limited regional crisis or conflict involving a Nato ally that seeks assistance under Nato's Article 5; general war — to provide forces required to counter a large-scale attack against Nato.

□ The defence industry directly and indirectly employs 360,000 people.



CONSERVATIVES



Nuclear deterrence: a four-boat Trident strategic force, armed with no more than 96 warheads per boat and including single warheads. Role: sub-strategic, for regional deterrence.

Strategy: stability promised after large-scale cuts. Guarantee of no more reductions in frontline forces. Increasing expenditure on equipment.

Commitments: no plan to reduce commitments: British division to stay in Germany. British committed to Bosnia operation for another 18 months.

Gays: no change planned in the rule banning gays from the Services.

Nato: support for enlargement and a new deal with Russia but without allowing Moscow a veto over bringing new members into the alliance. Totally opposed to the European pillar of Nato being linked to the European Union.

United Nations: continuing support for the UN as the main forum for authorising peacekeeping efforts but against earmarking troops and a standing UN army.

Arms exports: will continue to promote arms exports but with strict licensing system to stop sales to maverick regimes. Hawk sales to Indonesia to go ahead.

LABOUR



Nuclear deterrence: Trident to carry no more warheads than Polaris (48) and to be included at appropriate time in strategic arms reduction talks.

Strategy: six-month review to reassess essential security interests and match resources to commitments. Says this is not a cost-cutting exercise.

Commitments: Labour is convinced that after manpower cuts the Armed Forces are now over-committed. Has not said what could be dropped but the British division in Germany is a likely target.

Gays: no change without the support of Service chiefs.

Nato: supports enlargement "in parallel" with steps to include Russia in wider security framework. Opposed to a European army but backs the Western European Union as European arm of Nato.

United Nations: British troops and equipment to be earmarked for UN missions; wants stronger UN early-warning capacity and UN centre for conflict prevention.

Arms exports: more stringent controls. No arms sales to regimes that might use them for repression or international aggression. Does not oppose Hawk sales to Indonesia.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Nuclear deterrence: deploy minimal nuclear force for defensive purposes only. Trident to have as many, but no more, warheads than Polaris.

Strategy: maintain defence spending in real terms (ie, declining as proportion of GDP). Be prepared to spend more if European security is threatened. More use of reserve forces.

Commitments: full review. Current emphasis on British-led armoured-based Nato Rapid Reaction Corps in Germany "misguided".

Gays: would lift ban on gays as part of overall policy to abolish discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Nato: would support common security through Nato; but more co-operation at EU and UN level. Make units such as the Rapid Reaction Corps interoperable with the Eurocorps formed by Germany and France.

United Nations: supports creation of permanent peace-keeping force comprising contingents from member states assigned on annual basis and available at short notice.

Arms exports: wants greater control of arms trade by UN and EU. Parliament to scrutinise exports of arms and dual-use technology; control sales to undemocratic countries.

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Ignorance is blamed for drugs teaching failure

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

LESSONS designed to prevent the misuse of drugs are ineffective in many secondary schools because the pupils know more about the subject than their teachers, inspectors report today.

Two studies by Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, paint a picture of young children's growing exposure to drugs. The 14-16 age group is identified as the most likely to take illegal drugs but the inspectors report increasing concern about the involvement of children younger than ten.

Although primary schools' basic teaching about drugs is highly commended by Ofsted, even before children enter their teens teachers struggle to answer their questions. Only a quarter of secondary school teachers received training in drug education last year, and the inspectors find that many lack the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver lessons effectively.

Youth services found misuse crossing social, ethnic and gender groups, especially where alcohol was concerned.

So-called alcopops were a particular problem, especially since many parents do not realise how strong they are.

In one incident, a 16-year-old girl was found unconscious on a beach after drinking two bottles of an alcopop, which had an alcohol content of more than 12 per cent. Drug misuse was an accepted activity for many teenagers, especially in inner-city areas, inspectors found.

"However, drug misuse trouble spots exist also in rural counties, market towns, coastal ports and, to a lesser extent, in the vicinity of military bases."

After alcohol, cannabis was the most commonly used drug, sometimes with the consent of parents. Ecstasy and LSD were also popular, although in the London borough of Southwark some teenagers now considered Ecstasy old-fashioned and were moving on to crack cocaine and her-

oin. "The increase in the use of crack cocaine is of great concern, as it is associated with a rapid growth of a violent sub-culture in which the use of firearms is increasingly common. However, even soft drugs could lead to escalating social problems out of school. "Some young people are seriously criminalised by their involvement with drugs, and are caught up in situations from which they find it difficult to escape."

Most schools are reluctant to expel pupils over drug incidents, unless they are persistent offenders or dealers. Ofsted says. Although the number of exclusions rose last year, those for drug-related offences did not.

Inspectors still consider some schools too quick to exclude pupils over drugs, however. "Such schools fail to consider sufficiently carefully the educational and social development of the pupil con-

cerned and the impact of the exclusion on the pupil, as well as on others."

Government advice to schools issued in 1995 suggested that the police should be informed when pupils were found with drugs, but exclusion should not be automatic. Schools were encouraged to develop a repertoire of responses, including counselling, according to the circumstances of each case.

The Department for Education and Employment is publishing a 55-page guide to drug education today to coincide with Ofsted's reports. The booklet describes 16 successful projects run by local authorities, including one on the Isle of Wight which takes prisoners into schools to describe their experiences.

The inspectors' report was welcomed by Release, which set up a "drugs in schools" helpline three years ago. Mike Goodman, its director, said: "We would endorse the conclusions. The report gives a much-needed boost to the thinking that responding to drug use centres on education, prevention and working with young people."

The increase in the use of crack cocaine is of great concern



Clive Froggatt plans to warn doctors, bankers, politicians and the media of the consequences of addiction

Heroin doctor draws on experience

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FAMILY doctor who was an architect of the Tory health reforms, and who was convicted of heroin offences in 1994, returns to work for the first time today at the addiction centre that treated him.

Clive Froggatt, 48, a key adviser to four successive

Health Secretaries, including Kenneth Clarke and Virginia Bottomley, has been appointed director of public relations at Promis (problem related medical information system) based in the Kent countryside.

He was suspended from the medical register after being convicted at Bristol Crown Court of obtaining

heroin by deception after forging prescriptions. He was also given a 12-month suspended jail sentence.

The former secretary of the Conservative Medical Society will use his new role to speak about addiction to schools. City bankers, doctors, the media and MPs. He will return to Westminster, where he was once feted by Cabinet ministers, to speak to private meetings of backbench MPs.

"Addiction, whether it is to drugs, alcohol, or eating, is the biggest cause of illness and disease," Dr Froggatt said last night. "It is also the biggest cause of crime." He said that it was important that the message was conveyed to politicians.

The father of two grown-up children is living in a bungalow on the Promis estate. He returns to his wife, Paula, and

his Cheltenham home at weekends. He has been unemployed for almost three years and is writing his autobiography. He was also hired as a medical adviser on a new Hollywood film about drug abuse, *Eyes Wide Shut*, directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. It was filmed in Britain and features Cruise as a doctor who helps to cure Kidman of drug addiction.

Dr Froggatt spent six months at the Promis unit at Canterbury, which is modelled on the 12-step Alcoholics Anonymous programme, and was an out-patient one day a week for a year. He left a month ago. He now describes himself as "clean" but each day is part of the process of recovery. "Coming off it is the easy part. Staying off them is the hardest part of all."

Lifeboat sails to a proud welcome

By PAUL WILKINSON

A LIFEBOAT with the latest in sophisticated equipment enters service this week on the only station in the British Isles that has a full-time crew.

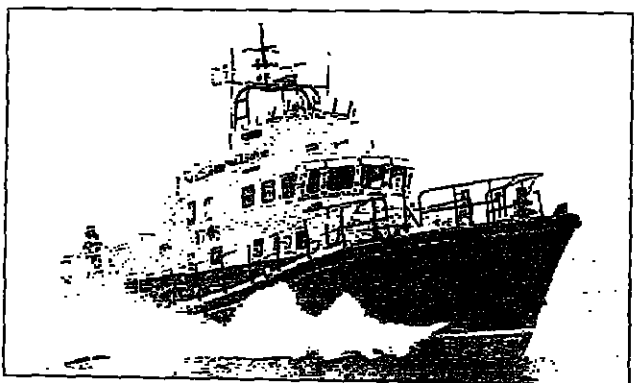
The £1.3 million *Pride of the Humber* has been funded from an appeal begun in north-east England in 1994. The 17-metre Severn Class vessel will be based at Spurn Point in the Humber estuary.

With a maximum speed of 25 knots, it can travel seven knots faster than the current 16-metre Arun class boat. It is equipped with laser chart plotters, satellite navigation and closed-circuit television so that the aft rescue deck can be watched from the wheelhouse. The vessel's construction allows it to right itself, should it capsize in heavy seas.

The *Pride of the Humber*

had been scheduled to go on station last October but problems with blistering on the ultra-light but ultra-tough fibre-reinforced outer skin of the hull caused delays. The appeal was one of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's biggest fundraising efforts, and extra interest was created after coverage in *The Times*.

Brian Bevan, the coxswain, and his crew will sail from RNLI headquarters in Dorset for a welcome ceremony in Grimsby on Saturday. Christine Goodall, of the RNLI, said: "The people of the North East have been outstandingly generous. I hope when they see the boat arriving they will feel proud of their efforts. The name certainly describes how I feel about what has been achieved."



The RNLI's *Pride of the Humber* cost £1.3 million

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Results of Voting on Conversion Resolutions

The following are the results of the voting on the Investing Members' Special Resolution and the Borrowing Members' Resolution at the Special General Meeting of the Society held on 21st February 1997 at the Sheffield Arena, as reported by the Scrutineers, KPMG.

Investing Members' Special Resolution to transfer the whole of the business of Halifax Building Society to Halifax plc in accordance with the terms of the Transfer Agreement dated 20th December 1996 (and which took effect on 1st January 1997).

1. Total number of eligible votes cast 5,260,694
2. In favour of the Special Resolution 5,152,776
3. Against the Special Resolution 107,918
4. 97.2% of the eligible votes cast were cast in favour of the Special Resolution

Borrowing Members' Resolution to transfer the whole of the business of Halifax Building Society to Halifax plc in accordance with the terms of the Transfer Agreement dated 20th December 1996 (and which took effect on 1st January 1997).

1. Total number of eligible votes cast 1,561,386
2. In favour of the Borrowing Members' Resolution 1,517,083
3. Against the Borrowing Members' Resolution 44,303
4. 97.2% of the eligible votes cast were cast in favour of the Borrowing Members' Resolution

1. Total number of borrowing members entitled to vote on the Borrowing Members' Resolution 2,294,358
2. 66.1% of all the borrowing members who were entitled to vote voted for the Borrowing Members' Resolution

Halifax Building Society has now applied to the Building Societies Commission for confirmation of the transfer of its business to Halifax plc.

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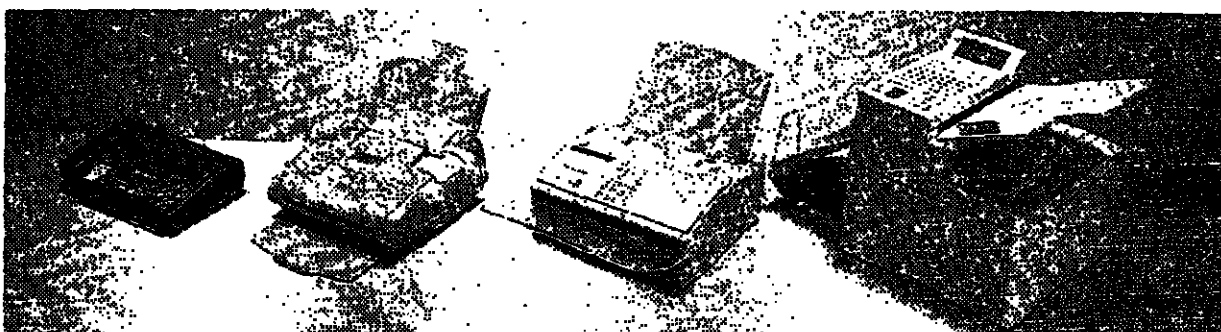
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Shock tactics used to attract funds

Charities accused of exaggerating child prostitution

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHARITIES are being accused of exploiting child prostitution in an increasingly aggressive battle for donations from the public. Social services directors say fundraisers are exaggerating the problem.

The dispute has become so bitter that social services have refused to contribute a chapter to a Children's Society book that will be the centrepiece of the first national conference on child prostitution on Thursday. The conference will be chaired by the broadcaster Anna Rieburn and feature a keynote speech by Allan Levy, QC, an expert on children's issues.

The Children's Society was criticised last week for its publicity leaflets for the London conference, which show palm trees and the words "Why travel six thousand miles to have sex with children when you can do it in Bournemouth/Leeds/Manchester/Birmingham?" Included is a form for credit card donations that states: "Whatever you can give will help children escape from the nightmare of child prostitution."

The police, the health service, schools and the law have all contributed chapters to the book, *Child Prostitution in Britain*, edited by David Barrett, the head of professional social studies at Luton University.

Robin Sequeira, former president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said: "We still are a society where children are valued and we are beginning to suggest that that isn't the case. We must have a sense of balance. We mustn't get into the mindset where we see child

abuse and child prostitution lurking around every corner.

The messages are unduly alarmist and pessimistic and much shriller than they were a decade ago. Charities are having to work much harder to attract the same volume of funds than before the National Lottery. There is a tendency to exploit with shock tactics in order to raise funds.

The prostitution campaigns began at a time when, according to one insider, there was a "state of panic" about the effect of the lottery, which some predicted would cost charities a third of their income.

Rival organisations portrayed themselves as pioneers in the field of child prostitution, issuing publicity material including harrowing stories about grim childhoods wrecked by adult pimps and paedophiles.

In 1995, the Children's Society issued a report, *The Game's Up*, calling for child prostitutes to be treated as

victims of abuse instead of being cautioned and convicted as criminals. In February 1996, five rival charities — including the NSPCC but excluding the Children's Society — published a study, *Splintered Lives*, calling for the same reforms.

In August 1996, Barnardo's announced that its "Streets and Lanes" project in Bradford had discovered 12-year-old girls selling sex. At a media launch, a child actress read the story of "Beth", beginning: "When I was nine years old I was raped..." It went on to tell how she became a prostitute at 14.

Michael Jarman, the director of child care at Barnardo's, denied exaggerating the problem of child prostitution: "It actually may be rife. It certainly is more widespread than people realise."

Philip Goodrich, a former Bishop of Worcester, who chairs the Children's Society, said: "Inevitably we do hope that people will see that we are on to the good and important issues and that we need the backing to do this."

Helen Dent, chief executive of the Family Welfare Association, said charities had to use crisis images because the public failed to respond to appeals based on pictures of happy children.

"Social services directors want charities to raise money on the strength of jolly, happy children smiling on the way to the seaside. It's all right for them, the money comes out of the taxes from central government. But charities have to raise money. Barnardo's has a fundraising target of £50 million a year."



Goodrich seeks backing for "important issues"



A window depicting St Werburgh



Simon Ward with the stone coffin thought to have contained Chester's first abbot

Saxon discoveries vindicate digging up cathedral floor

By RUSSELL JENKINS

DIGGING up Chester cathedral's flagstone floor to install heating, which had been condemned by architectural historians, is yielding a series of Anglo-Saxon relics. Archaeologists are pressing on for the biggest prize, the bones of a 7th century princess turned nun.

Their excavations have revealed a Saxon wall and a magnificent stone coffin thought to have contained the remains of the first Abbot of St Werburgh's, Richard of Bec, who died in 1116. The six-strong team, which has so far dug down one foot into the sandy debris, has also found a huge number of graves, bones and artefacts. They prove the existence of a Saxon minster on the site, which had been known only from documents.

The diggers believe the bones of St Werburgh may have been buried under the 220-year-old floor to evade destruction. One of the early English royal abbesses and revered for ensuring healthy pregnancies, she was the daughter of King Wulfhere of Mercia. Born in AD 650, she renounced the

world on the death of her father, retreated to a convent in Ely and founded monastic houses over which she presided.

Her biographer, the monk Goscelin, recounted in 1100 how she was said to have resuscitated a wild goose that had been killed by a servant. Her body was buried at Hanbury, Staffordshire, but was later moved to Chester to place it beyond the reach of marauding Danes.

For centuries the bones of St Werburgh, the cathedral's guardian saint, drew pilgrims from all over the country to the minster, where a shrine was built to house the relics. The shrine was destroyed during Henry VIII's reign.

The saint's memory lives on in the cathedral in an elaborate shrine built about 1340 and in representations in stained glass.

In a trench in the southeast corner of the cloister, the archaeologists found the stone coffin believed to be that of Richard of Bec. But the most significant find so far of the excavations, which will continue for several months,

has been the Saxon wall. A stretch of it is now temporarily visible at the northeast corner of the cathedral.

Simon Ward, the senior archaeologist on the site, said: "We have always known from historical documents that there was a Saxon church in the vicinity, but until now we have had no opportunity to search. To find the wall section is very exciting."

"It is probably the only opportunity in our lifetime to work in the cathedral, because the floor which is now being replaced has been there for 200 years and the new floor is going to be there for a similar length of time."

The Dean of Chester, the Very Rev Stephen Smalley, said: "The discovery of what could be real evidence of a Saxon minster on the site of the cathedral validates the link between the earliest Christians in Chester and the worshippers of the present day."

"It is both humbling and exciting to be reminded in this way of the fact that God has been worshipped on our site for over 1,000 years."

Drinking while pregnant is safe

THE report of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on alcohol and pregnancy will come as a great relief to most pregnant women, many of whom have been terrified by stories of the consequences of drinking when pregnant. Some women have spent 40 weeks worrying that the drinks at the dinner party they attended before they knew they were pregnant, or even the alcohol they had at about the time of conception, might have resulted in a child with foetal alcohol syndrome.

All prospective mothers can now sleep happily in the knowledge that normal social drinking while pregnant, or



Dr Thomas Stuttford

intending to conceive, will not cause them to give birth to a child with the syndrome. Mothers should avoid excessive drinking and should keep to a good diet including folic acid supplements, which should be taken when conception is planned. The foetal alcohol syndrome results in a

child with slanty eyes, bizarre ears, a receding forehead, a long but flat Prussian upper lip devoid of its usual contours and a chin so feeble that it would make a P.G. Wodehouse hero look manly. The child also has stunted growth and is mentally retarded. Research has shown that the

foetal alcohol syndrome is induced by a multiplicity of factors, of which an excessive alcohol intake is the most important. However, the syndrome is rare unless the alcoholism is also associated with adverse circumstances. It is much more common in inner cities and in the malnourished: surveys have shown that it is linked to poverty. In a study of nearly 400,000 well-nourished American women who had taken alcohol when pregnant, not one case of foetal alcohol syndrome was uncovered.

More alarming for heavy social drinkers is the possibility of the foetal alcohol effect. Foetuses conceived by heavy-drinking mothers are more likely to miscarry, are smaller at birth, do not thrive so well initially and are poor suckers whether from the bottle or the breast. It is claimed that even at primary school age, children of heavy-drinking mothers are less intelligent and integrate less well with their peers. It is known that the combination of smoking and alcohol makes the foetal alcohol effect more likely.

One piece of good news for pregnant women who enjoy a glass of wine or two, but no more, with their dinner was that research reported in 1995 shows that babies born to light drinkers were slightly heavier than those born to teetotallers.

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FORTE HOTELS

More time to dither on lottery

GAMBLERS now have two hours to change their lottery numbers after they have bought their ticket.

Lottery retailers were informed that the time allowed for customers to change their mind was being extended from 15 minutes in the trade magazine *Jackpot* in January, but there was no public announcement.

The time limit was extended when the Wednesday draw began because Camelot anticipated it would lead to more problems with tickets. A spokeswoman for Camelot said: "We did not feel it was necessary to tell the public. In the past they had to call a retail hotline to cancel a ticket within 15 minutes."

"We felt that during the mid-week draw they may not have had time to go through the procedure. We decided it would be beneficial to give them that little bit more time to deal with it."

Winning numbers, page 24

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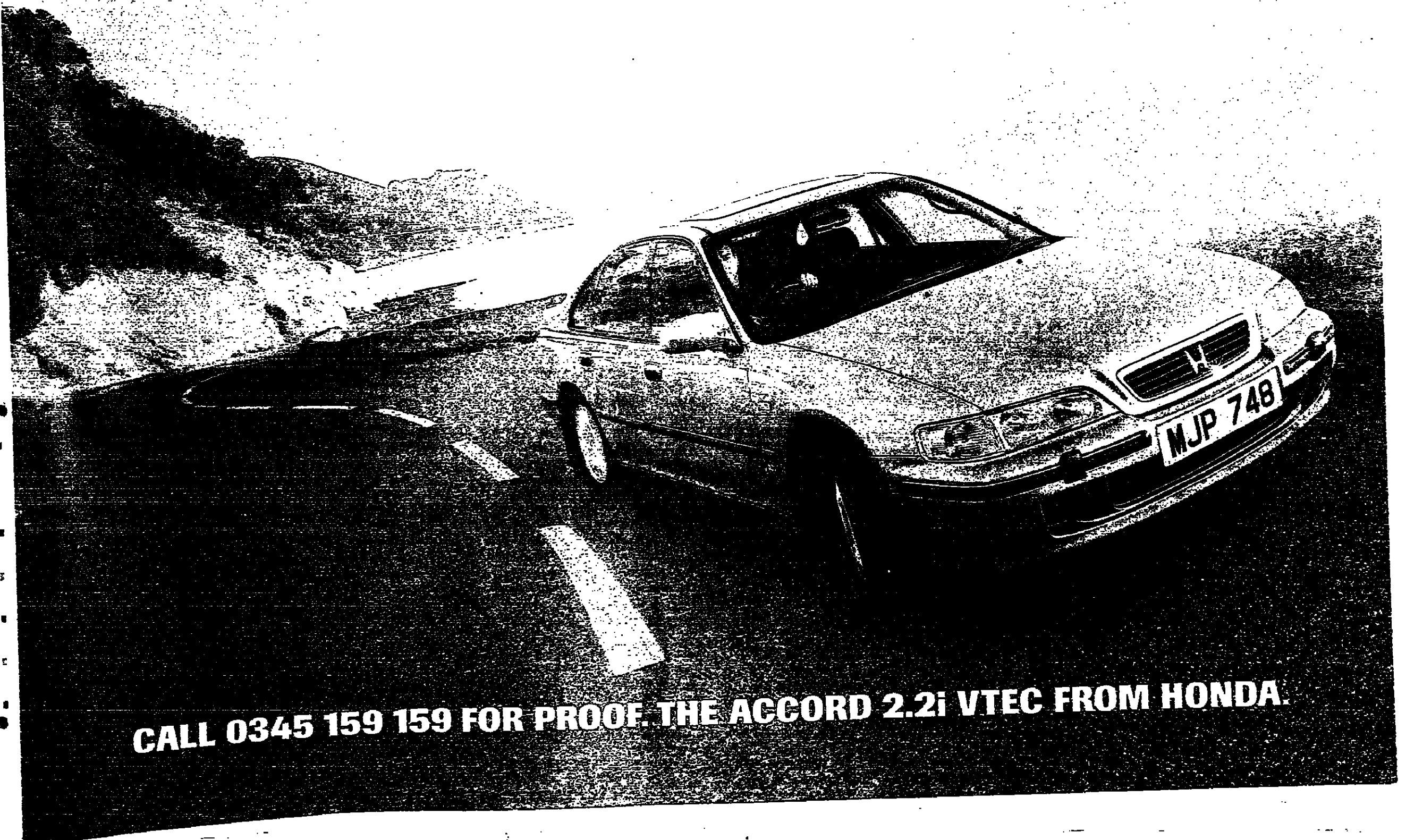
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New 'confession' puts Oklahoma bomb case at risk

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Oklahoma City bombing case was in turmoil yesterday after a newspaper report that the suspect, Timothy McVeigh, had confessed to his defence lawyers, saying the attack was calculated to ensure a "body count" that would make his political point to the US Government.

Mr McVeigh's lawyer, Stephen Jones, denounced the account in *The Dallas Morning News* as a hoax by "the most irresponsible paper in the country". He said that Mr McVeigh, when told of the article, remarked: "There's a practical joker every week."

However, the paper stood firmly by its story. The editors put out the alleged confession on the paper's Internet site seven hours before the presses rolled with the print version. Mr Jones accused the paper of rushing its account into the public domain to pre-empt defence moves to win a temporary injunction against publication from Judge Richard Matsch.

This is the third time a newspaper has printed a purported McVeigh confession to bombing the Oklahoma City federal building, the worst act of domestic terrorism in American history in which 168 people were killed, including

children in a day-care centre, and more than 500 were injured. The account is by far the most controversial, coming as it does just four weeks before the trial is due to start in Denver.

Massive media coverage of the new account will make the task of finding unbiased jurors even more difficult than before. The judge hastily called a meeting in his chambers with prosecution and defence lawyers.

The newspaper said its article was based on summaries it had examined of several interviews conducted with Mr McVeigh by an unnamed member of his defence team. He allegedly responded in chilling fashion when told that activists who shared his grudge against the Government would have viewed him as a hero if he had bombed the building at night when it would have caused far fewer casualties and not killed any children.

"Mr McVeigh looked directly into my eyes and told me, 'That would not have gotten the point across to the Government. We needed a body count to make our point,'" the defence team member was said to have written in the interview notes. Mr McVeigh

allegedly described how the bomb was made with 5,400lb of ammonium nitrate fertiliser and racing fuel. The notes implicated Mr McVeigh's co-defendant, Terry Nichols, in buying the fuel and also described their stealing explosives before the bombing.

Mr McVeigh was said to have dismissed conspiracy theories swirling around the case, including one that a German who stayed at a white supremacist camp in Oklahoma was connected to the bombing. Mr McVeigh also admitted having sexual intercourse with Mr Nichols's wife when her husband was at work. "He told me just mention his water bed when I spoke to her... she would know what it meant," the notes said.

If the notes are genuine, they could not be used in evidence because they would be protected as confidential under lawyer-client privilege. Nor, seemingly, would an admission of guilt by Mr McVeigh prevent his lawyers from mounting a strong defence. Legal authorities said a lawyer's job is not to judge a client but to present the best possible case. A lawyer may not, however, knowingly make false statements.



Friends of Rocky and Nancy Watts try to salvage some of the family's belongings after a tornado — one of several sweeping across America's Southern states at the weekend — swept through Randolph, Mississippi. The couple and their son survived, but at least 30 people died and about 200 were hurt, mostly in

Tornadoes sweep across states

Arkansas, as tornadoes and thunderstorms swept away mobile homes, flattened buildings and caused flooding. Four people were missing in rising flood waters in Ohio. One of the worst hit areas was

Arkadelphia in Arkansas where four people died. "It's horrible. The whole downtown is gone," said Jeremy Cox, a resident. Police Chief Bob Johnson said one mobile home was left standing out of about 60. Mike

Huckabee, Governor of Arkansas, said the state death toll could rise as people were buried under debris. He said Arkansas may have been hit by as many tornadoes in one day as in all of 1996. President Clinton, who is from the state, was briefed in New York while the family celebrated Chelsea Clinton's birthday. (AP)



Cousin: condemned for killing white

Briton campaigns for fresh trial of death row 'child'

FROM TOM RHODES
AT THE ANGOLA STATE PENITENTIARY,
LOUISIANA

LIFE or death for Shareef Cousin rests on whether a white woman could see clearly on a dark night in New Orleans. His world is a cell 10ft long and as wide as his arms can stretch. Down the road, is the chamber where he is scheduled to die by lethal injection. He is the youngest person on death row in America.

Cousin, a black, was convicted at the age of 16 of killing a white man in the tourist French Quarter of New Orleans.

Less than two years later, he is one of 64 prisoners who inhabit the cages that serve as death row in Louisiana's Angola penitentiary, the largest US maximum security jail. Seventy per cent of inmates are black.

Angola, the setting for *Dead Men Walking*, the Hollywood portrayal of death row, is flanked by the Mississippi and an alligator swamp. Prisoners are locked up for 23 hours a day. Life is punctuated by meals and mail, and Cousin whistles away the hours watching sport on a television outside his cage.

He has become a voracious reader, and talks of John Grisham thrillers and

his latest favourite, *The Long Walk to Freedom*, by Nelson Mandela. In the past he often contemplated suicide. But now Cousin has found God. "I have been inside since I was 16 and I haven't had a chance to live life. I don't really know what life is all about," he said. "Every day I think about what they are going to do to me and I always tell myself that one day it will be better, that if there was a God he wouldn't have let this happen to me. Knowing that I am innocent... keeps me going."

Cousin's assertion has struck a chord with Clive Stafford-Smith, a British lawyer who is appealing for a new trial.

The case hinges on the testimony of the victim's white girlfriend, Connie Babin, who told jurors she was "absolutely positive" Cousin was the assailant. Only after conviction did an anonymous police source send Cousin's former lawyer a copy of her original testimony, made three days after the murder.

"It was dark and I did not have my contacts nor my glasses, so I'm coming at this from a disadvantage," she said. "You could see outlines and shapes and things that stick out."

The prosecution did not disclose this statement. Twenty black witnesses supported Cousin's alibi that he was playing

basketball at the time of the killing. Their testimony also was withheld from the court. "It was a black-on-white crime. Someone had to pay and justice was never the issue," says Dr Ros Cropper, his aunt.

Roger Jordan, the Assistant District Attorney who tried the Cousin case, maintains that the evidence in the first trial was fair. For Mr. Stafford-Smith, America should abide by United Nations safeguards banning the execution of juveniles. "I don't care if Connie Babin is the Pope with 20-20 vision, it does not justify sentencing a 16-year-old child to death," he says.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 3 1997

A TWIST IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP TALE FAVOURS MANCHESTER UNITED



Taylor puts Villa ahead yesterday and there is nothing that James, the diving goalkeeper, or Bjornebye can do about it as Liverpool's title challenge runs into trouble. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Taylor leaves Liverpool
with mountain to climbAston Villa 1
Liverpool 0By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE championship of English football is not lightly won or lost by the beginning of March, but the manner in which Liverpool went down so neatly at Villa Park yesterday, and the way Newcastle United had surrendered at home against Southampton on Saturday, does now suggest that the FA Carling Premiership is Manchester United's, unless the defending champions choose to lose it.

There will, of course, be no submission, no white flag this side of Easter, yet Roy Evans, the ever honest manager of Liverpool, did say last night: "Obviously, Manchester United are the bookmakers' favourites now. I would say don't write us off, but four points is already a bit of a gap and Manchester United play on Saturday [at Sunderland] and we do not play against Newcastle at Anfield until next Monday."

The gap, in other words, could be alarming by the time two of the closest pursuers get to grips. There are ten games to go and, in the marathon, there are few opportunities for those who hit the wall at three-quarter distance to find their second wind.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, had opted before the kick-off yesterday: "This is a massive game — Liverpool because of the championship, ourselves looking to qualify

for Europe. If we're honest, massive games bring out the best in big-time players and whenever we have played Liverpool in the last two seasons, their strikers have come up with the goods. We'll see if our's can do so this time."

Not a striker by repute, but an honest toiler in the midfield, Ian Taylor proved the decisive player for that "massive" opportunity. There were seven minutes remaining and the game, played on a difficult, heavily sanded and rutted pitch, had reached a level of stalemate and mediocrity that must have made viewing an absolute relaxation to the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson.

His own team had been marooned in sixth place when they ended the European Cup Champions' League qualifying stages in November, but Ferguson had staked all along that his side would then find their range and their tempo, that winning or retaining championships was a habit. Whether that was arrogance or deep self-belief, United had by this weekend overhauled all the inconsistent pretenders to their crown.

The goal that sank Liverpool began with Townsend, on the left, in the 83rd minute. He delivered a searching, accurate, driven centre that bisected Liverpool's central defenders, Mark Wright and Matteo. Behind them, unseen, was Taylor and he had the composure to cushion the ball on his left thigh and the time to use his right foot to hook it

TOP OF TABLE

Man Utd	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	26	16	9	1	56	31	57
Arsenal	26	15	6	5	46	21	53
Newcastle	25	14	9	2	47	26	51
Aston Villa	25	14	6	5	51	31	48
	26	12	7	7	36	26	46

into the net before the goalkeeper, David James, could stop him.

"It was an awful blow," Evans conceded. "When you have two teams of matching styles, you cannot afford to get caught with the extra man."

Liverpool were. Both teams admitted that their passing could have been neater, their finishing more accurate and they would not blame the wind, which though skittish was not the tempest of last week, for their troubles. At times, when the flags were limp, so was the tempo of the game, quelling the fervour of the 30,330 crowd.



Evans: realistic

In the beginning, everything had looked urgent. Three times, Mark Wright, who would be many people's choice as an England defender still, was lured out of defence and passed with alarming ease by Milosevic, Yorke and then Draper. The last of those, in the tenth minute, involved a scintillating burst of verve and pace. It was stopped by Kvarme, the Norwegian recruit from Rosenborg, who, giving an object lesson to the English in the art of defending, matched Draper for speed and then stretched out his foot to knock the ball to safety.

Next, Taylor caught Barnes dwelling on the ball, — vigour beating wisdom — but Yorke, too quick for Bjornebye and Mateo, only invited the save from James with his rising shot.

Within seconds, Collymore, clean through and aided by the impetuous way Bosnich had rushed out of his area, for some inexplicable reason scooped the ball high over the bar. It would have been fine at Twickenham; it was so wasteful on the Villa sands.

Fowler, running into Collymore, running into the referee, seemed to have lost his direction to record his second goalless game in succession. Seven minutes before Taylor's winning goal, he, the man born to the goalscoring mantle of Ian Rush, had amazingly struck the ball over the head of Bosnich and over the crossbar from only eight yards.

The fact that he had been down in London for the pop music Brit Awards with his pal, McManaman, earlier in

the week did nothing for their rhythm. McManaman was also to miss a gilt-edged opportunity... and a youth of 19 all but showed them the way to perform.

David Hughes, born in Wrexham, 6ft 4in and possibly still growing, came on for the injured Staunton at half-time. Within minutes, he was volubly calling Southgate and Ehiogu into position and, when he stealthily moved forward midway through his first 45 minutes of league football, he won the ball in the air from Townsend's

Cantona in control 30
Leboeuf's lapse 31
Results and tables 32
Steve McManaman 33

driven cross and headed just over the bar.

A promising career was launched, a young Welshman without fear of the future and already schooled over the past two years in Villa's chosen way of training with three central defenders. He is right-footed, played on the left and was a member of a Villa side beating Liverpool for the first time since May 1995... a victory that could already have dramatically turned the championship campaign.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Bosnich — U. Ehiogu, S. Staunton (sub: D. Hughes, A. Ehiogu), G. Southgate — F. Nelson, I. Taylor, M. Draper, A. Townsend, A. Wright — S. Milosevic, D. Yorke.
LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): D. James — B. Kvarme, M. Wright, D. Matteo — J. McManaman, J. Barnes, S. Bjornebye — S. McManaman — S. Collymore (sub: P. Berger, S. D. D. R. Fowler).
Referee: S. Dunn.

WILLIE CARSON,
THE PEOPLES JOCKEY,
RIDES INTO
RETIREMENT

"I am getting old and my body is wearing out" Willie Carson on his decision yesterday to retire from race riding

"He has done the right thing to go out at the top of the tree"

Dick Hern, the trainer for whom Carson rode his most famous winners

"It reflects the character of the man, that after his accident and at his age he even contemplated continuing"

John Dunlop, the champion trainer who saddled 641 winners for Carson

"Carson's determination to triumph meant he put his career before everything else, including his family in the early years. Single-mindedness can be a failing as well as a blessing but as far as his supporters are concerned he will be remembered as the happy-go-lucky, wise-cracking Scott the People's Jockey"

Richard Evans, racing correspondent of The Times

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England fluff lines to ruin happy ending

France did not just beat England at Twickenham on Saturday, they ruined the fairy-tale ending that the BBC had written for its final season as the exclusive rights-holders to the five nations' championship.

Chapter one: England beat France providing a suitably triumphant note for the corporation to end its long-standing association with headquarters. Chapter two: England beat Wales in Cardiff, winning the triple crown, the grand slam and the undying gratitude of Jonathan Martin, the BBC's controller of sport. So much for fairy-tales.

After a quite outstanding game on Saturday, the BBC must answer two questions. First, does it promote the game between Scotland and France in a fortnight's time, the grand slam decider, to senior match

throughout the United Kingdom or does it concentrate on the junior, triple crown tussle between Wales and England? I think we all know the answer to that one.

The second question, however, is more difficult. Which team will the BBC support next year? For years there has been a tacit and annoying understanding that it suits everyone living south of Hadrian's Wall and east of Offa's Dyke if the BBC supports England. You only have to look at Steve Rider's face. He battles gamely on at Murrayfield, Cardiff Arms Park and Lansdowne Road, but it is only at Twickenham that his features soften into the look that can only be described as car park smug.

All that, however, has to change next year, when Sky takes over at Twickenham and



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

the BBC — under the deal unveiled last week and anticipated in this column a month ago — concentrates on the home games from Wales, Scotland and Ireland. It is actually a deal that suits both broadcasters. Sky gets the two games a season guaranteed to bring in new subscriptions, while, by effectively ceding the remaining games to the BBC by withdrawing its offers to the respective unions, it neatly side-steps any further fuss about monopoly. The BBC, on the other hand, gets enough

live games to secure the future of *Grandstand* and gets its reward for the huge improvement in its coverage in the past couple of seasons.

Sky also has work to do if it is to obtain maximum advantage from its expensive acquisition. The team that does a pretty competent job of covering the increasingly rewarding club rugby needs at least one big signing if that success is to be converted at international level. My advice would be for Sky to renew its efforts to sign John Inverdale, the

relaxed host of *Rugby Special*, who must surely be getting sick of waiting for the BBC to turn him into the new Des Lynam or Steve Rider. Get him out of those rugby shirts (a gimmick so far past its wear-by date, it defies belief) and in front of the cameras for some decent live sport.

Saturday may have brought the wrong result, but the BBC had farewell to Twickenham with some outstanding coverage and — that television rarely — a genuinely funny sports feature about the England front row. We began, however, with three big interviews that made it straight into the Sunday papers — Jack Rowell and Will Carling at Twickenham and Fran Cotton from Murrayfield.

Eddie Butler's colourful profile of the French may have been a little *de trop* for some

tastes (the French forwards he compared predictably to Asterix and Obelix, the backs, rather less predictably, to Catherine Deneuve and Brigitte Bardot), but at least he was the first to hold up his hands at the end of the game. "Never has a five nations' game been read worse by a team of pundits," he said — and rarely can a television audience have cared less.

It had been a great game and provided a suitable sign-off for Nigel Starmer-Smith and Bill Beaumont, who, given the reduction in English emphasis at the BBC next season, could find themselves among the casualties. On the other hand, if the BBC also picks up the secondary rights for the Twickenham games, they could be at it for years to come. And on that scary note...

McRae overcomes attempted sabotage

COLIN McRAE was fortunate to remain in the Safari Rally in Kenya yesterday after spectators tried to sabotage his car on the sixth stage of the second day. McRae, a Scot, who led by more than eight minutes from Ian Duncan, of Kenya, in a Toyota, after the seventh stage, lost three minutes at the service point after the incident, which damaged his steering rack, broke a wishbone and caused a puncture to his Subaru.

"There was a wall of stones and we hit it flat out," McRae said. "The car jumped in the air and I thought we had taken the whole front-end off. Luckily, we just damaged one corner very badly." McRae took the lead in the morning's first stage, the fifth of the event. Armin Schwarz, of Germany, in a Ford, the overnight leader, encountered suspension problems and slipped to fourth. Richard Burns, of Great Britain, second until the seventh stage, dropped to third when he stopped to mend a puncture and his car fell off the jack.

Fourth leg start chaos

SAILING: The fourth leg of the BT Global Challenge, which takes the fleet from Sydney to Cape Town, got under way yesterday despite a chaotic start that was packed with incident and included a collision between the race leader Mike Golding's *Group 1* and *Commercial Union*, skippered by Richard McCreath and lying fifth overall. The race jury was forced to consider a total of ten protests filed from the yachts' skippers as the fleet made its way out of Sydney Harbour into the Tasman Sea. As a result, many of the yachts had to execute penalty turns before setting out on another 6,000 miles of ocean racing.

Leonard retires again

BOXING: Sugar Ray Leonard, right, promised not to attempt another comeback after his middleweight bout with Hector Camacho was halted in the fifth round in Atlantic City. The bout, Leonard's first for six years, was totally dominated by Camacho. "My career is definitely over," Leonard, 40, said. "In the ring, I'm through. Nobody wants to stop, but this is a pretty good indication."



Triumphant return

BOWLS: North Walsham defeated Stanley 84-76 in the final of the Sutton Winsor/Greengauge national inter-club championship in Darlington yesterday, repeating their previous success in the Denny Cup the last time that it was staged in the town, in 1986.

Amy Gowshall, of Louth, won the women's indoor national junior singles title in York yesterday.

Ivanisevic in hurry

TENNIS: Goran Ivanisevic easily overcame Sergi Bruguera to win the Italian indoor championship in Milan yesterday. Ivanisevic won 6-2, 6-2 in 43 minutes to retain the title after the shortest match in the history of the ATP Tour. "I'm not looking forward to becoming the No 1 player in the world; what I want most is to win a grand-slam event, which has eluded me so far," Ivanisevic said.

Strobl off the mark

SKIING: Josef Strobl, of Austria, gained his first World Cup super giant slalom victory in Kvitfjell, Norway, yesterday. Luc Alphand, of France, who began the day by clinching his third consecutive downhill title, tied for fourth. Warwara Zienkajka, of Russia, recorded two victories over the 1988 Olympic course at the women's downhill in Hakuba, Japan.

Logan joins Wasps

RUGBY UNION: Kenny Logan, right, the Scotland and Stirling County wing, has ended speculation by joining Wasps. Logan has signed a two-year contract thought to be worth £140,000 and is expected to play in the Courage Clubs Championship match on Sunday against Gloucester. London Scottish pulled out of a deal with Logan last week, claiming his demands were excessive.



Downing remain head

ROWING: Downing finished head of the Cambridge University Lent races for the fourth year in succession on Saturday. 1st and 3rd Trinity climbed into the challenger's position, their highest for 23 years, and won their oars by going up four places during the week. At the end of the women's division, Emmanuel regained the headship that they lost to Trinity Hall last year.

CRICKET: KNIGHT'S INJURY AND INJUDICIOUS STROKES BRING NEW ZEALAND HOPE OF DRAWING SERIES

England spurn chance of victory

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN AUCKLAND

AUCKLAND (England won loss): New Zealand beat England by nine runs

THE final distinction of England's winter abroad remains elusive. They squandered another chance to make the one-day series safe here yesterday, banking overconfidently in pursuit of a miserable New Zealand total and suffering accordingly. Defeat, which leaves England 2-1 ahead going into the final fixture in Wellington today, was compounded by the first serious injury of the tour.

Nick Knight's left index finger was broken in three places by the first ball of the England innings and, although he returned heroically to face a single ball one-handed in a desperate last-wicket stand, he must undergo surgery here today. Knight will be reunited with the team for their homeward flight on Wednesday, but he may miss the start of the championship season, in which he is to be vice-captain of Warwickshire, on April 23.

This was not an epic one-day match. It began too late, on too slow and damp a pitch, and contained too few runs to be memorable. Only one bowler conceded 30 and, though the surface was never entirely trustworthy, it could not be held responsible for the domination of the bowlers. Inept batting was at least as much to blame.

However, the importance to New Zealand of their first win over England in seven international games was obvious. Steve Rixon, their coach, had warned overnight that he was tired of hearing of his players' potential. "They've got to put their hands up or move on," he said. The relief of a team that had belatedly responded was graphically illustrated by the uninhibited celebrations that followed the decisive catch.

It was taken by Geoff Allott, on the run and barely two

yards in from the sight-screen, to thwart a spirited assault by Chris Silverwood. Shielding Knight from the strike while gathering runs with uncomplicated gusto, Silverwood — a late replacement for Dominic Cork, who was resting a hamstring strain — had reduced the requirement to ten from ten balls when his straight drive against Gavin Larsen fell agonisingly short of glory.

The crowd, that had swelled to around 6,000 from puny beginnings on an unpromisingly dank morning, acclaimed the result superlatively and, later, there was a rare smile on the face of Lee Gernon, the New Zealand captain, as he conceded that his team's total of 153 had seemed inadequate.

To be frank, it had seemed wretched in the light of a forthright opening stand that produced 53 from 11 overs. All ten wickets then fell for 100, the last eight going down for only 40. It was wretched batting, though great credit is due to Robert Croft for a masterful spell of off spin, turning the odd ball, teasing all who faced him and tormenting Stephen Fleming and Chris Harris, the left-handers. Even in their reduced quota of 43 overs, the game having started a day and 100 minutes late, England looked to have a straightforward task, but, mistakenly, they approached it as if defeat was inconceivable.

The effect of Knight's injury should not be underrated. He has batted with renewed freedom in the limited-over games and made an unbeaten 84 on this ground a week ago. He was struck trying to withdraw his bottom hand from a lifting, leg-side delivery by Heath Davis and retired after a lengthy examination by Wayne Morton, the physiotherapist.

For the next 40 minutes, England batted as if this was a benefit game. By the end of this period, they had lost four



Knight bats one-handed after breaking a finger on his left hand as England try in vain to reach their target

wickets and stood, effectively, at 41 for five. It was a long road back from there and England had neither the necessary depth nor the conviction to attack against the familiarly niggardly slow-medium of Larsen and Harris.

It was bowlers such as these, on pitches such as this, who were responsible for New Zealand's startling progress in the 1992 World Cup. When conditions suit, they are highly effective and England's lower order was bewitched.

The fault, of course, lay higher. Michael Atherton had already been dropped at cover from a ball that he had to perform contortions to reach when he repeated the stroke in the fourth over. Graham Thorpe turned a catch to square leg. Nasser Hussain's footwork deserted him and Ronnie Irani was out first ball. Davis too good for him.

Alec Stewart and Craig White patiently rebuilt, putting on 50 in 20 overs, but, when Stewart was bowled aiming an ugly pull, White was becalmed as Harris opened hypnotically to nine men inside the fielding circle. Seven overs remained, and 41 were needed, when White, utterly frustrated, drove Harris to mid-off.

FULL SCOREBOARD FROM AUCKLAND

England won loss

NEW ZEALAND

B A Young c and b White 16

N J Astle c Silverwood b Harris 51

*L K Gernon lbw b Gough 50

S P Fleming c Hussain b Croft 37

C L Cairns run out (Silverwood/Croft) 2

A C Parore c Croft b Gough 13

C Z Harris c Hussain b Croft 0

G R Larsen run out (Hussain) 2

N Hussain b Davis 1

S B Doull not out 13

H T Davis b Gough 0

G I Allott b Gough 3

Extras (b 2, lb 3, w 1) 16

Total (39.5 overs, 173mins) 153

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53 (Astle 29)

2-54 (Astle 30, 3-113 (Fleming 35))

4-116 (Fleming 35), 5-120 (Parore 2)

6-120 (Parore 2), 7-129 (Parore 8), 8-136

(Doull 2), 9-141 (Doull 6)

England were not quite

back for a second to long-on

and failed to beat Astle's

precise return. Two more

wickets fell in the same over

and Knight, his left hand

strapped and gloveless, made

his courageous return in

vain.

After winning an important

toss and restricting their hosts

so effectively, this was a bad

day for England, a reminder

to them that every victory has

to be earned. The outcome is a

final match loaded with

tension, when they should have

had a gentle cruise towards

home.

BOWLING: Caddick 9-1-29-2 (w 2)

2-32 (Stewart 13), 3-41 (Stewart 17)

4-41 (Stewart 17), 5-51 (White 17), 6-113

(Croft 6), 7-122 (Gough 5), 8-132

(Caddick 6), 9-125 (Silverwood 1).

Knight retired hurt when 1 at 1-0 and

returned at 133-9

BOWLING: Davis 6-0-32-2 (w 6, 4-0-0-0)

one spell, Allott 5-1-21-2 (w 3, 4-0-0-0)

one spell, Doull 6-1-15-2 (1 four, 5-1-

8-0, 1-0-7-0), Larsen 8-3-20-3 (7-0-

14-0, 1-3-0-6-3), Harris 9-0-26-1

(25 balls, one spell), Astle 7-1-24-1 (1 six

one spell)

Score after 12 overs: 53 for 4

New Zealand won by nine runs

Match award: N J Astle and G R Larsen.

Umpires: D B Cowie and R S Dunne

Third umpire: B F Bowden

Referee: P J P Burge (Australia)

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

FIRST (Christchurch): England won by

four wickets

SECOND (Auckland): England won by

four wickets

THIRD (Napier): Match tied

FIFTH (Wellington): tomorrow

Compiled by Bill Findall

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow
	L	U	Piste	Off-piste	
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	5	90	good	heavy slush	sun 5 27/2
(Upper runs still good, lower warm/slushy)					
Obergurgl	40	160	good	varied	good sun 2 27/2
(Very good skiing on nearly all pistes)					
Söld	20	70	good	heavy slushy	sun 3 27/2
(Plenty of good skiing; some slush low down)					
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	115	260	good	varied slushy	sun 3 27/2
(Generally good but some slush in afternoon)					
Chamonix	20	315	good	varied slushy	sun 7 27/2
(Overall excellent skiing, open slopes slushy in afternoon)					
Méribel	50	170	fair	heavy slush	sun 8 27/2
(Very slushy on lower slopes; fine higher up)					
Tignes	170	230	good	varied fair	sun 4 27/2
(Generally good spring skiing; very warm sunshine)					
Val d'Isère	105	220	good	varied slushy	sun 3 27/2
(Good skiing in spring-like weather)					
ITALY					
Cervinia	90	350	good	heavy	good sun 4 27/2
(Majority of pistes excellent, some slush low down)					
Livigno	90	190	good	varied fair	fine 3 27/2
(Upper slopes good; lower starting to wear)					
SWITZERLAND					
Mürren	50	130	good	varied slushy	sun 5 27/2
(Low/south slopes quite slushy; others very good)					
Villars	20	100	good	heavy worn	sun 3 27/2
(Generally good spring skiing; lowest runs wearing)					
Wengen	20	200	good	varied slush	sun 4 27/2
(Slushy snow below 1,600 metres; good above)					
UNITED STATES					
Mammoth	330	450	good	powder	good sun -12 28/2
(Everything open, excellent skiing)					
Vail	195	230	good	powder	good fair -9 28/2
(Good skiing on packed powder)					

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain

Amelia 10150

Blewett and Waugh pile on agony

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

UNBEATEN centuries from Steve Waugh and Greg Blewett virtually shut South Africa out of the first Test match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday. Waugh and Blewett shared a 305-run stand for the fifth wicket, batting throughout the third day as Australia amassed a formidable 479 for four.

The fifth-wicket pair's effort put Australia into a controlling position with a 177-run lead after South Africa had been bowled out for 302 on the first day.

The pair sent records tumbling as they cruelly exposed the lack of depth of the South African bowling. South Africa's four-pronged pace attack struggled all day trying to wrest the initiative on an unresponsive wicket.

Australia had begun the day on 191 for four after bad light and rain had robbed 30.4

Adelaide in 1994-95. Blewett and Waugh raised a new record partnership for any wicket in Test for Australia against South Africa. They collapsed the 45-year-old second wicket stand of 275 between Colin McDonald and Lindsay Hassett in Adelaide in 1952-53.

It was also the thirteenth time Test cricket has record a wicketless full day's play in 1,356 Tests. Blewett and Waugh became only the eleventh pair of batsmen to have batted through a complete day's play.

The two batsmen are the third pair to achieve this feat for Australia, after Bill Lawry and Bob Simpson against the West Indies in Bridgetown in 1965 and Mark Taylor and Geoff Marsh against England at Trent Bridge in 1989.

Waugh, hampered by a muscle strain in his left lower leg after the tea break, preferred to play second fiddle to his junior partner and in the process recorded his twelfth century in 87 Tests.

Waugh enjoyed the luxury of a reprieve on 44, when a sharp catch off a Lance Klusener bouncer flew past

the outstretched hands of Dave Richardson, the wicketkeeper, with the score on 265.

Blewett, in particular, made the South Africans pay dearly for repeatedly pitching short on a surface that lacked bounce, as he cut, pulled and hooked most of his 26 fours. Blewett's runs came off 321 balls. The only bowler to command respect was Paul Adams, the left-arm spinner, who bowled 43 well-controlled overs for 130 runs.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 302 (W J Cronje 76, D J Richardson 72 not out; G O McGahey 47)

AUSTRALIA: First innings

*M A Taylor b Pollock 15

M L Hayden c Cullinan b Pollock 40

M I G Elliott c Adams b Donald 85

M E Waugh c Richardson b

Racing bids farewell to one of its greats



Erhaab, in the 1994 Derby, provides Carson with his eighteenth and last classic success, more than 22 years after his first

Richard Evans looks back over a colourful riding career that covered five decades

Willie Carson yesterday brought down the final curtain on a career inspired by a visit to his local cinema as a young boy by announcing his retirement. The diminutive Scot, who endeared himself to punters with his never-say-die attitude in the saddle and unmistakable cackle out of it, rode 18 English classic winners and was champion jockey on five occasions. His tally of 3,828 winners is the fourth highest in British racing history and with the exception of Lester Piggott and, possibly, Pat Eddery, he was the best rider of his generation.

"I made the final decision on Saturday. I am getting old and my body is wearing out," Carson, 54, said at his Gloucestershire home yesterday. Although the spirit was still willing, he had to bow to the inevitable as he had found it hard to regain full fitness after the life-threatening injuries he received at Newbury last September when he was kicked in the chest by a horse.

The fight for fitness was one of the few battles he has lost during a career where determination, tenacity and a single-minded will to win have been paramount and helped him become a household name — and the Queen's favourite jockey.

William Fisher Hunter Carson was born in Stirling on November 16, 1942, the son of a warehouseman for Fyffes bananas. Although he was a respectable 6ft 10in at his first weigh-in, he inherited his parents' lack of stature and was the butt of jokes about his height at school... and how he should become a jockey.

When he was 11 he went to Allanpark Cinema in Stirling to see *The Rainbow Jacket*, a "seasonably sunny tale of the turf", with shots of Doncaster, Sandown Park, Newmarket — and Sir Gordon Richards, who had won his only Derby

on Pinza the previous year. "The *Rainbow Jacket* had a lot to answer for," Carson said. "It was a film about a young kid coming good as a jockey and it pointed me in the right direction. I made up my mind to be a jockey and spent all the money from my paper round on learning to ride."

"Billy" Carson, as he was known as a youngster, used to cycle the nine-mile round trip once a week for his ten-shilling lesson at the Scottish Equitation Centre in Dunblane and in 1959 joined the stable of Gerald Armstrong near Middleham. If Carson thought success would come easily, he was mistaken.

Despite having his first ride at Redcar in May 1959, he did not have a winner until Pinkers Pond obliged in an apprentice handicap at Catterick in July 1962. Arm-

strong retired at the end of that season and sent Carson to the Newmarket yard of his brother, Sam, and his career began to blossom. Five winners in 1963 were followed by 15 in 1964 and 37 a year later.

A move to Bernard van Cussem's stable and the appointment as Lord Derby's retained jockey meant Carson was on an irreversible climb towards the top. In 1971 he rode a century of winners, a feat he was to repeat in 22 of the following 25 years. A first classic success, on High Top in the 2,000 Guineas, and a first jockey's title came in 1972 but the best was still to come.

Carson became stable jockey to Dick Hern in 1977, the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee and, in fairy-tale fashion, the new team triumphed with Dunfermline, carrying the royal colours, in the Oaks and the St Leger. The emotional success helped cement one of the great trainer-jockey relationships of modern times and provided Carson with some of his most memorable days on horses like Troy, Henbit, Bireme, and more recently, Nashwan and Dayjur.

Hern said yesterday: "It has always been Willie's decision, but he has retired when he still has his health and strength. He has gone out with his nerve unimpaired. When he had that terrible fall on Silken Knot at York in 1981, everybody said he could not come back but he came back better than ever. He has been a staunch ally and a great friend. I think he has probably done the right thing to go out at the top of the tree."

John Dunlop, the champion trainer in 1995, admitted to mixed

feelings on hearing of Carson's retirement. "I felt it was remarkable, and it reflects the character of the man, that, after his accident, he even contemplated continuing. There comes a time in every athlete's life when you have to retire and I am delighted he has chosen the moment which he thinks is best."

He rode his first winner for me — Final Fling — in September 1971 and his last, Bahhare, in September 1996. In total, he rode 644 winners for me, which is quite amazing. He had a great association with the best horses I have trained, particularly Salsabil and Habibi, but the most remarkable race I remember was Erhaab's victory in the 1994 Derby when he came from nearly last to win. It was an amazing piece of race-riding.

"He was tremendously popular with racegoers and not just in Britain. In Italy they would cheer 'Willie, Willie'. I will miss him tremendously," Carson's chirpy personality as a captain on *A Question Of Sport* gained him a wide following beyond racing.

Although Carson has always been careful with his money and is a millionaire, it is difficult envisaging him putting his feet up as he gives up race-riding. He has built up a successful stud near Cirencester, named after Minister Son, the colt he bred and rode to win the St Leger in 1988.

Carson's determination to triumph meant he put his career before everything else, including his family, in the early years. Single-mindedness can be a failing as well as a blessing but, as far as his supporters are concerned, he will be remembered as the happy-go-lucky, wise-cracking Scot: the People's Jockey.

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Riding out near his Cirencester stud yesterday, Carson gets on with the next chapter of his career

CARSON'S CAREER

Born: November 16, 1942, Stirling
Age: 54 Married to Elaine, three sons, Anthony, Neil and Ross.
First winner: Pinkers Pond, July 19, 1962, at Catterick.
Champion jockey: 1972, 1973, 1978, 1980, 1985.
Best season: 1980 (187 winners). Rode a century of winners in all but two seasons between 1971 and 1995.
Most winners at a meeting: Six (from seven rides) at Newcastle on June 30, 1990, at combined odds of 3,246-1.

CARSON'S 18 CLASSIC VICTORIES

1,000 GUINEAS: Salsabil (1980), Shadajid (1991).
2,000 GUINEAS: High Top (1972), Known Fact (1980), Don't Forget Me (1987), Nashwan (1988).
DERBY: Troy (1978), Henbit (1980), Nashwan (1988), Erhaab (1994).
OAKS: Dunfermline (1977), Bireme (1980), Sun Princess (1983), Salsabil (1984), Shadajid (1991).
ST LEGER: Dunfermline (1977), Sun Princess (1983), Minister Son (1988).

ATHLETICS

Tromans completes amazing recovery

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

GLYN TROMANS, a distance runner from Coventry, will make his debut for Great Britain in the world cross-country championships in Turin in three weeks' time only eight months after undergoing two heart operations.

Tromans was fourth in the British championships yesterday and was selected immediately for the senior men's team of nine.

When Tromans lined up at the start at Wigmore Valley Park, Luton, it was his first cross-country race for 16 months. "You can liken this to the guy playing Sunday soccer who, in his middle to late twenties, suddenly vaults to Premiership status," Bud Baldaro, a Great Britain team coach, said. "It is like the ESO a week part-timer who suddenly finds himself playing alongside Alan Shearer."

Tromans, 27, began to suffer severe palpitations in 1995 and, though he continued to train, frequently he would have to abort his runs. "My heartbeat would go up to 220 (beats a minute)," he said. "Sometimes I could run for two hours, sometimes only for half a minute."

Believing he was suffering from asthma, Tromans went to see Dr Frank Newton, the Great Britain cross-country team doctor, who sent him to a cardiologist. "He was getting chest pains and I thought it might be a heart condition," Dr Newton said. "His heart-rates were going up far too high for what he was doing."

Normally for an athlete, the maximum heart-rate is 220 minus your age. He would go

along comfortably at 150 and suddenly it would go up to 220 and he would get a pain in his chest. "It was discovered that Tromans had extra nerve pathways in his heart."

"The operations were to cut the extra pathways so he is left only with the ones he should have," Dr Newton added. "He was getting extra sets of electrical messages and the effect was push his heart-rate much too high."

Ashia Hansen, the triple jumper, was on Saturday handed the chance to win the £30,000 first prize at the World Indoor championships next week after the British Athletic Federation reversed its selection procedures and added her name to the team.

Hansen, 25, had been left out of the team for Paris, despite being a genuine medal hope, after failing to take part in the British trials in Birmingham last month.

BAF had informed all athletes wanting to compete in the world championships that they had to compete at Birmingham and also at last week's Bupa Grand Prix at the same venue.

GOLF: AUSTRALIAN WINS PLAY-OFF TO LAND HIS FIRST EUROPEAN TOUR TITLE

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBAI

AFTER an enthralling four days of competition, the Desert Classic sped to a rousing conclusion yesterday, with Greg Norman, the world No 1, Ian Woosnam, a former world No 1, who had led overnight and seemed to have the title in his grasp, and Richard Green, an Australian left-hander in only his second season on the European Tour, contesting a play-off. It was Green who holed his putt to win at the first extra hole.

He raised his arm in a mixture of acknowledgement and delight, as though he could scarcely believe that he had won his first professional title in Europe, as well as £116,660, from such an outstanding field. Anita, his wife and caddie, struggled to contain herself as she stood holding the flag at the side of the green. Green, 26, was the first left-hander to win a European Tour event since Bob Charles in 1974.

Flying start puts Faldo in pole position

THREE birdies on the first three holes launched Nick Faldo into the lead after the third round of the Los Angeles Open — one shot clear of Craig Stadler and Scott McCarron going into the final round last night.

Faldo, looking for his first victory since the US Masters last year, opened his three-under-par round of 68 with a birdie from a bunker on the par five first. He then followed it up with birdies at the second and third — both par fours.

The Englishman, who was one of four players who started the day one shot behind overnight leader Don Pooley, moved to 10-under-par with a birdie at the par four seventh before his lone

bogey of the day, at the par three 14th, left him with a nine-under total of 204.

"Obviously, I'm very pleased with my start," he said. "I had a very good up-and-down on one. On the back nine, it was a case of missed chances. I couldn't quite keep adding to it. But I was still hitting it solid."

McCarron's seven-under-par 64, the lowest round of the tournament, included back-to-back eagles at the 10th and 11th. He chipped in from 45 feet at the tenth and from 25 feet at the 11th, on both occasions with his eight-iron.

Stadler had an eventful round of 68. He birdied the first and fifth, three-putted for a bogey at the seventh and

pressurised Woosnam who, at that moment, was 16 under par and halfway down the 17th hole. Norman did so, his curling putt disappearing into the hole after a circuitous routing, one that resembled a journey from London to Bristol via Birmingham. Each of his four rounds had been lower than the previous one — 71, 68, 67, 66.

Woosnam birdied the 17th by holing from eight feet to move to 17 under par. Needing

Final scores 37

only a par at the last for victory, he faced a simple pitch of 73 yards over the lake, but unaccountably mis-hit it and his ball rolled back into the water. Woosnam was so disorientated he played his fifth stroke from the same spot, when he could have moved to the dropping zone.

To his credit, however, his second pitch was to ten feet and he knew he had to hole it to tie with Norman. As

Woosnam pondered this putt, Green sank a 25-footer for a birdie to join Norman in a play-off. Woosnam made it a three-way affair when he sank his ten-footer.

All three found the fairway on the 17th, but whereas Norman and Woosnam saw their second shots bounce on the green and roll to the back fringe, Green's second, one of 106 yards for which he used his sand wedge, stopped 12 feet past the hole. Norman and Woosnam both missed their putts; Green, an elegant player, rolled his in for his third victory as a professional.

Unbelievable was a word Green used often in victory. He had defeated Norman, whom he had hero-worshipped as a child, on the first time they had met. More will be heard of Richard Green. If there was one person whose excitement approached Green's, it was Olazabal. He said that he felt no worse than when he had arrived. This must surely mean that he is on his way back towards full fitness.

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RUGBY UNION: PARIS MATCH TO PROVIDE MORE MEANINGFUL TEST OF POTENTIAL AFTER UNDEMANDING MURRAYFIELD ROUT

Scotland's euphoria fuelled by feeble Ireland

Scotland.....38
Ireland.....10

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ONE-MATCH revivals were the curse of Wales and Ireland. The cup pressed to lips was immediately snatched from them. However, blowing their Gaelic cousins away on a gale at Murrayfield on Saturday is one thing for Scotland, denying France a grand slam in springtime Paris quite another.

As England discovered, dismantling Ireland is not ideal preparation for the much more difficult assignment of beating France. The hope that Scotland—as well as England—must have is that they can repeat their 23-21 win in Paris two years ago. Were they somehow to upset the French appetite, all the talk about Scotland being in a separate championship of two with Ireland would be dismissed as arrogance on the part of others.

After a match against opponents as tactically deficient, defensively naive and ripe for the taking as Ireland, Scotland should not delude themselves. The Celtic battle to avoid the wooden spoon was likely to depend on which country was the more desperate for victory. Just because Scotland passed their 16-plus, it does not mean that they are up to degree standard for the Parc des Princes in 12 days.

After the initial triumphalism that followed victory, Scotland could reflect on a performance of control and fluidity. They did not take all of their opportunities, but enough to register their record score in the five nations' championship.

Encouragingly, several individuals, notably Craig Chal-

mers, stamped their authority on the match. Much work needs to be done, but Scotland, at least, have something to work with.

An hour after the finish, Brian Ashton, Ireland's newly-appointed coach, was still a beetroot colour. The six-year contract that he signed must have seemed like a life sentence. Was Ireland's victory in Wales last month a dream? Ashton's features creased up as he confessed his embarrassment at the failure of his side

FIVE NATIONS



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	52	57	6
England	3	2	0	1	107	42	6
Wales	3	1	0	2	81	72	2
Scotland	3	1	0	2	70	88	2
Ireland	3	1	0	2	57	141	2

RESULTS: Ireland 15 France 30; Scotland 13 Wales 34; England 41 Scotland 13; Wales 25 Ireland 35; France 27 Wales 25; Ireland 6 England 46; England 20 France 23; Scotland 38 Ireland 10.

MATCHES TO COME: March 15, France v Scotland; Wales v England.

to win controlled-phase ball, and "front-line tackling" below the standard expected of an international team.

Ashton also talked of a roller-coaster season, although conceding an average of 35 points a match is more of a white knuckle ride. He must hope that the development squad that he will take to New Zealand this summer will not suffer too badly and he can start building, but, while injuries continued to strip Ireland

bare during the match, it also served to highlight that there are precious few bricks amid the straw for him to use.

How 13 Irish names got into the preliminary British Isles squad is a mystery, although Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, will be more reluctant to delete the name of Jim Staples, a captaincy contender, whose last contribution of the afternoon was a fisting but painful one. Staples is blessed by talent, but cursed by injury. He pulled a hamstring in his charge up the right, yet got his kick away for Hickie to score Ireland's only try, which gave them the lead after 25 minutes.

If Tom Smith was a surprising inclusion in the Lions party before Saturday, he is not now. On the left of Scotland's scrum, Smith was a figure of solid correctness. In the loose, his charges were barnstorming.

Smith's significant contribution to Scotland's first try tended to be overlooked in that it was scored by Alan Tait. For someone short of pace, the hype about Tait's return from rugby league to international rugby union was extraordinary. Timing, positional sense and support play are all requisites of league that Tait displayed on a steady comeback alongside the silky Townsend in the centre.

Scotland's all-round balance was improved, partly because of Chalmers's ability at stand-off half to craft silk purses out of sow's ears passes from Redpath. The watching Cotton must also have been impressed by Rob Wainwright's contribution on the blind-side flank. He is plainly not a No 8.

With a buffeting southwesterly wind behind them in the second half, and Weir and Reed picking lineout balls like sweets from children, Scotland exploited room around the fringes permitted them by a compliant Ireland back row.

In addition to the effort by Tait, tries off the scrum by Walton and Weir, fellow Newcastle players, caused *Flower of Scotland* to give way to *Blaydon Races* as the supporters' anthem.

When Townsend and Stanger added the three-quarter sparkle with tries near the finish, Scotland exorcised a few more of the demons flying about since their collapse against Wales and England. Ireland have a long time to try to forget.



Townsend, who capped a silky display with Scotland's fourth try, looks for support after being tackled by Humphreys

Chalmers wins over his critics

Mark Souster sees the Scotland stand-off secure his rightful claim to the No 10 shirt

BY THE very nature of international sport, there are exuberant highs and depressing lows to be enjoyed or endured during the course of a competitor's career. While it is easy to be magnanimous in victory, how an individual confronts despair and defeat says much about his character.

Craig Chalmers, the Scotland stand-off half, knows more than most about the vicissitudes of life, having suffered in the past year his fair share of "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune

... the heartache and the thousand natural shocks". To his credit, he has emerged from the darkness with his reputation enhanced.

Instead of sulking at the prospect of a glittering career in decline, after being dropped in favour of Gregor Townsend by Scotland last year, he quietly went away, worked hard at his game, and won over the critics and, more importantly from his point of view, the selectors. That, though, was only part of it.

On February 15, Chalmers's father, Brian, his mentor and guiding light, collapsed and died while watching his son play for Melrose at Hawick. He was only 53. It was a devastating blow, one cushioned, as far it could be, by the support and comfort offered by the close-knit community that is Melrose.

That is why it was so important and gratifying for Chalmers, 28, having again been recalled at the insistence of David Johnston, the Scotland assistant coach, to have produced such a consummate display. He may not have Townsend's searing pace or generate the electricity that Townsend does when in possession, but as he consistently maintained during his period in the wilderness, he has other skills and attributes. He can control a game better than Townsend and is without peer in Scotland in bringing his three-quarter line into play.

At Murrayfield, in conditions that suited him perfectly, Chalmers, in his 51st international, proved the ultimate competitor. A dummy here, a

slipped pass there, he was always ready to take on the opposition, to fight the good fight and, in harness with Bryan Redpath, his club colleague at scrum half, invariably chose the right option. It was a performance that must surely have settled the argument that has raged over who should be Scotland's stand-off. Afterwards, with the plaudits ringing in his ears, he wore the look of a contented man, but, at the same time, in an emotionally charged atmosphere, Chalmers was quick to pay tribute to his father's influence.

"My dad helped me a lot throughout my career," he said. "Every time I go out to play now, it will definitely be for him. He will be pleased today. He will be up there watching me. I know. He will have enjoyed it watching me play, watching Scotland win. I know he will have been looking down on me."

"When I was younger, especially, he'd never see the good

things you did — always the mistakes. It all depends on how you react to that, and personally I react positively to criticism. I understand why he was doing it. Some people might think this burning desire to win is not a very attractive trait, but, when you are a sportsman playing at international level, I reckon that it is essential.

"I am motivated and very competitive, and I get that from my father. There are more important things in life than rugby, such as family and health, but, when I am on a rugby pitch, it is rugby that is the most important. I am pleased with the way I performed and I am enjoying my rugby more than ever. My aim now is to secure the stand-off position and have people say 'Yes, he should be there'."

He added: "To win today was vital. The forwards were magnificent and gave us the platform to build on. Seeing Tom Smith, Graham Ellis and Matt Stewart drive holes through rucks was superb. If we play like that in Paris, there is no reason why we can't get a result there and stop France getting the grand slam."

Having been one of the catalysts for Scotland's remarkable success over an admittedly disappointing Ireland, it will have done him little harm to have played so well in front of Fran Cotton, the British Isles manager. After missing the 1993 tour to New Zealand when at the peak of his powers because of an arm broken at Twickenham, Chalmers is surely certain to make the final party announced in early April. Now that would make his father very proud.



Chalmers: competitive

Jenkins shines at stand-off

Pontypridd.....31
Swansea.....7

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Swalec Cup may have left Sardinia Road, but the Welsh League remains a tantalising possibility for Pontypridd, never more so than yesterday, when the demolition of Swansea left the clubs level on points at the top.

Yet it could have been more. The mathematics of league rugby in Wales meant that, for eight minutes, Pontypridd had nosed ahead of Swansea, who, eight days earlier, had ejected them from the cup by a single point. Then a try by Colin Charvis, two minutes into added time, denied Pontypridd their clear three-try advantage and hence the bonus point.

Swansea remain ahead by virtue of having scored more tries — 80 as against 60 in 13 matches — but there is precious little else they could take back west as comfort. Signs of spring in the Rhonda Valley suggest that Pontypridd may

yet claim the league title that has always eluded them, which would be a tribute to a well administered club and to a player, Neil Jenkins, whose virtues never shine brighter than in his own back yard.

Jenkins may yet conclude the international season in his favoured position of stand-off half, instead of full back.

Auckland, the champions, were held to a 40-40 draw by Northern Transvaal and Queensland, the two-time winners, lost 24-19 to ACT, their Australian rivals, in the opening round of the Super 12 competition.

should the injured Arwel Thomas, of Swansea, fail to recover in time to play England on March 15. Jonathan Davies has damaged ribs and missed Cardiff's defeat of Ebbw Vale and, watching Jenkins in full flow, you wonder how it is that Wales doubt his capacity to operate effectively from No 10.

He scored 21 of his club's points and provided the scor-

ing pass for tries by Geraint Lewis and Ford. He reads the game so well even while he undertakes all the mundane chores in defence: not that Pontypridd need any tuition on that score. They worked vigorously to find a way round Gibbs and Taylor, though this was no flowing epic between Wales's top two clubs, more a cancelling of strengths.

Jenkins's subtle pass sent Lewis over for the first try. Another member of the clan, Steele Lewis, stood in the tackle for Jenkins to hit the line at speed and send Ford over for the second, before Jenkins himself saw space behind the Swansea scrum, chipped, chased and collected the ball for the try that might have earned the bonus point.

SCORERS: Pontypridd: Tries: G Lewis, Ford, Jenkins; Conversions: Jenkins (2). Penalty goals: Jenkins (4). Swansea: Try: Charvis; Conversions: Harris. PONTYPRIDD: C Morgan; G Lewis; J Lewis; S J Lewis; P Ford; N Jenkins; Paul Lloyd; G Prosser; M Rowley; M Williams; D Mellis; M Rowley replaced by P Owen (10min); Lloyd replaced by M Spiller (70). SWANSEA: M Back; W Leach; M Taylor; S Gibbs; A Harris; A Williams; A Booth; J Bussett; G Jenkins; C Griffiths; C Owens; P Arnold; S Moore; D Thomas; S Davies. Injury replaced by V Coughlan (39). Bonus replaced by R Jones (19). Referee: P Adams (Ebbw Vale).

Lessons to be learnt from bitter experience of defeat

Rob Andrew suggests

England must improve

their tactical awareness

and strengthen key areas

IT was a game lost, suicidally, needlessly and, somewhat naively. Sides do not lose when they are 14 points ahead, do they? Well, yes, they can and do, although I cannot recall another capitulation by a home country in the five nations' championship such as England managed to inflict on themselves on Saturday.

When it cried out for Phil de Glanville, or any number of the experienced players in the side, to communicate what was going on to the rest of the team and work out ways to combat it, there was nothing. A relieving spell of three or four minutes on the France line and, maybe, the storm would have abated. It continued to rage and England paid the price for dropping their guard and keeping it lowered.

England, rightly after what they did to Scotland and Ireland, went into the match with plenty of confidence. In the end, though, were they a little too cocksure? At 20-6, France were just about dead. If anything, it was the time to step up the pressure and go for the kill. Instead, England stepped down the pressure, forgetting just how dangerous France can be, notwithstanding the situation.

It was a strange experience. There was an overwhelming sense of inevitability once Leflamand had scored the first France try. England had stepped off the gas to such an extent that they seemed incapable of reapplying it. Paul Grayson and Andy Gomarsall failed to find a couple of touches and, with the wind in their sails, French fluidity overran England. They fully deserved their celebrations at the end in laying the Twickenham bogey to rest after ten years.

England, to my mind, had given in to their critics by throwing the ball around from the outset. It was exhilarating to watch, but was it the right tactic? England were still trying to keep the ball alive at all costs, and, critically, they let their concentration slip. At the time, perhaps, when they should have been battering down the hatches to consolidate a fairly sizeable advantage, victory was delivered into France's hands.

With 25 minutes to go and so far in front, I do not see what tactical substitutions would have had. Against Ireland, Austin Healey and Jeremy Guscott were brought into the picture late on to drive nails into the coffin. It was tactical thinking that was possibly lacking. A bit of pragmatism and England would have been going for a grand slam in Cardiff on Saturday week.

The championship again demonstrated its capacity to surprise, but some things have not changed. England and France are out on their own. Wales, in the middle, have still a lot to prove, and Scotland and Ireland are in a league of their own at the bottom. Saying that, there is still a long way for England to go in catching up in global terms. England possess a number of good, talented individuals, but a great team is some way off.

There must be a collective blame, but the defeat again highlighted certain deficiencies in the midfield spine of Nos 8, 9 and 10.

Grayson is progressing at stand-off half, but it is at scrum half that England have more problems. When it required control under pressure, Gomarsall was unable to supply any: with him, it is all tap-and-go, dummy and dart. He is far too predictable and his kicking is not good enough for international level. I suspect, though, that Jack Rowell will not make many changes.

It will be tough for England in Cardiff, as Wales will be playing their last game before the National Stadium is redeveloped. A triple crown is at stake — as if England need to be reminded — and the pain of defeat by France will be even more acute this morning. It is the lessons they draw from it, though, that are important for the future.

Scotland beat Ireland in a good performance, but I do not expect that France will be unduly worried. Paris in mid-March, with a grand slam beckoning, is the perfect finale for France. They brought their new running game to Twickenham and won. Can they really be stopped now?

SUCCESS.
IT'S A
MIND
GAME.

RUGBY UNION: BEATEN SIDE'S CAPACITY TO COPE WITH TWICKENHAM FAILURE WILL BE FULLY EXAMINED BY WALES

France force England into character test

England.....20
France.....23

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THIS France team, which now stands on the brink of a first grand slam in the five nations' championship since 1987, may well develop into a great one. At Twickenham, on Saturday, they offered a 75,000 crowd a remarkable performance of composure under pressure, of adherence to the demands of their coaches and of execution when all seemed lost.

It was, by a distance, the most disciplined all-round game that memory can recall from a side hamstrung from the outset of this season by injuries and absences; so much so that, by the end, the indiscipline was England's, the thrown punch, the dissent, the horrid sense of a match snatched away when it was all but won evident in every exhausted line of their bodies.

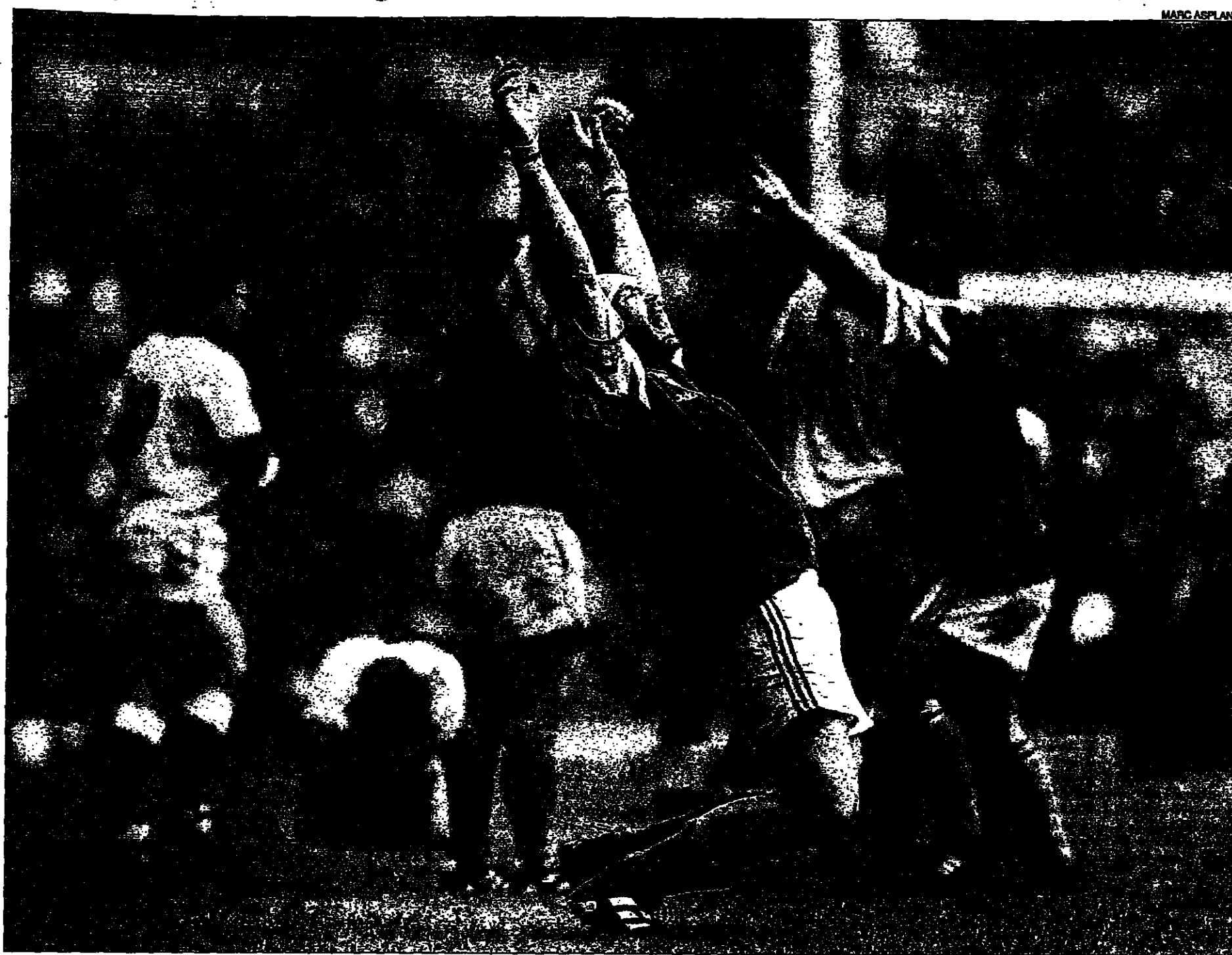
Their abject disappointment as the final whistle blew suggested a loss of self-belief which Wales may find ways of exploiting in Cardiff on the Ides of March. England thought that they had travelled further than they have, and this probable loss of the championship offers the chance to see the character of this side and how well it copes with failure. If, after all, the away teams continue to win as they have in five of the eight championship matches this season, the title may yet be theirs.

For that to happen, Scotland must win at the Parc des Princes (as they did two years ago), but, such is the serenity of the French, that you would not bet on it. Their *esprit de corps* stems from the management team which their federation resolutely refused to put together until this season: Jo Maso and, more significantly, Jean-Claude Skrela and Pierre Villepreux.

They have done for France what Skrela and Villepreux did for Toulouse in the 1980s, given them an attitude of mind and depth of purpose that have permeated throughout the various representative levels. After all, France's achievement over the weekend extended to the A, under-21 and student teams. Skrela acknowledged his surprise that a grand slam is now within reach, but his work with an extended group of players has paid off, to no better effect than with the quartet from Brive, the Heineken Cup holders.

After watching them demolished by Auckland a week earlier, the two national coaches took time to assure Carboneau, Penaud, Lamaison and Venditti of their value to the team and of their faith in them as individuals. In return, the four backs gave France the cutting edge that England lacked, with Lamaison returning a nap hand of try, conversions, dropped goal and the penalty goal, three minutes from time, that won the match.

"Lamaison is only one player in 15," Villepreux, so long an outcast in his own land, said. "The team tries to have a collective spirit. The important thing was not Lamaison, but to maintain the style we want, even at 20-6 down. We had rugby played by both teams which will



Merle, the France lock, sinks to his knees at the final whistle as his team-mates celebrate a famous victory over a dejected England at Twickenham

TWICKENHAM DETAILS

ENGLAND: T R G Simpson (Newcastle), J M Slightholme (Bath), W D C Carling (Harlequins), P R de Glanville (Bath), T Underwood (Newcastle), P J Grayson (Northampton), A C Gomersall (Worcester), G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps), M O Johnson (Leicester), S D Shaw (Bristol), R A Hill (Saracens), T A K Rodder (Northampton Army)

FRANCE: J L Sadourny (Colomiers), L Leflamand (Bourgnon), C Lamaison (Brive), S Glas (Bourgnon), D Venditti (Brive), A Penaud (Brive), P Carboneau (Brive), C Celliano (Toulouse), M Delmas (Agen), F Toumaire (Narbonne), A Benazzi (Agen, captain), O Merle (Montpellier), H Miorin (Toulouse), O Magne (Clermont), F Pelous (Dax), Miorin replaced by R Castet (Béziers, 49min); Benazzi replaced by M de Rougemont (Toulon, 65)

SCORERS: England: Try: Dallaglio. Penalty goals: Grayson (4). Dropped goal: Grayson, France: Tries: Leflamand, Lamaison. Conversions: Lamaison (2). Penalty goals: Lamaison (2). Dropped goal: Lamaison.

impressive victory save for the fact that this remains an immature England team, fragile in the key tactical area of half back.

You might also argue an immaturity of management in that Jack Rowell chose not to make tactical replacements in the second half. The game cried out for change at scrum half and in midfield, to offer a more positive threat than Gomersall achieved and a footballing apprecia-

tion that Guscott might have provided. A fresh pair of legs in the pack might have helped, too, but that was left to France, who took off Miorin and were forced to remove Benazzi, their captain, with a rib cartilage injury.

"Substitution is fraught with danger," Jack Rowell, the England coach, said, pointing towards France's situation which, once Castet was on the pitch, forced them to

bring on de Rougemont, the replacement hooker, for Benazzi. Yet the little red-head fizzed around and under his bigger opponents like a mosquito, while Castet reinforced the vigorous efforts of Magne, the newcomer on the flank. "I didn't want to disrupt what was going on," Rowell said, which ignores the fact that what was going on changed midway through the second half.

If there was a turning point in the match, it came in the 62nd minute. Grayson's kicking had been embellished by a wonderful try from Dallaglio on the stroke of half-time. Jim Fleming playing advantage well and the flanker using his considerable speed to force a diagonal passage to the line from 30 metres. Better finishing might have brought at least one more try and, for a lengthy period in the third quarter, England were pinned down on their own line, yet held.

Their defence was all it should have been, Benazzi had gone and the situation seemed right for the late *coup de rougemont* that distinguished England's meetings with

Scotland and Ireland. Regan's throw to the middle of a lineout, though, bobbed tantalisingly before falling to Magne. France drove and released before Lamaison chipped delicately into the wind, the ball held up and Leflamand snatched it from Underwood to score the try that told France that the match could still be won.

Critically, England helped the opposition cause by failing to find touch, offering an attacking runner as good as Sadourny the chance to weave his magic. Nothing is more dangerous than France on a roll, dominating the loose ball, asking the same questions of defenders that the New Zealand Barbarians did in November, and Lamaison, who opened the match with a penalty goal and dropped a goal after a needless free kick conceded by England, scored the second try after a series of short-side assaults and his conversion levelled the score. When Dallaglio fell outside, Lamaison could hardly miss from 16 metres and a famous victory had been won.

RFU policy switch may enable Rowell to continue

By DAVID HANDS

ALTHOUGH the Rugby Football Union (RFU) seems likely to change its policy of reviewing national management posts annually, speculation that this will be Jack Rowell's last season as the England coach seems premature. There is every chance that the RFU will adapt its approach so as to retain his services.

Rowell, who takes delight in obfuscation, will not commit himself to full-time coaching. "I have other things in my life," he said on Saturday, not least a new appointment as chairman of Celstis, the Cambridge-based pharmaceutical group. "If I were offered a contract by the RFU, and I would like them to do so, the balance would have to be right."

Rowell's contract expires on August 31, after England's tour to Argentina and one-off international with Australia in Sydney — ventures upon which Rowell pins much importance. His future depends upon the recommendations of the union's national playing committee, whose chairman, Derek Morgan, said was moving towards a cycle of four-year appointments to coincide with World Cups.

Morgan's view, said to be shared by his committee, is that the next coaching appointment will extend to the 1999 World Cup. "Yet there should not be a hard and fast rule on whether the appointment is full-time," Morgan said. "It's important to get the right individual and the job can be tailored towards his requirements, if necessary."

The RFU hopes to attract National Lottery cash to fund future coaching positions, though money is not necessarily the main attraction for Rowell. He has discussed the future with the committee, of



Rowell: speculation

which he is a part, and whose next meeting will probably be deferred until after the climax to the five nations' championship, on March 15.

By that time, the RFU may also know whether its commitment to a five-year agreement with Sky television has cost the support of Save and Prosper, the investment company that has backed England's domestic matches for the past 12 years. The union makes a presentation to the company today, hoping to convince it to take up another three-year agreement. However, Save and Prosper is known to be unhappy at the absence of live terrestrial coverage of international matches at Twickenham for the next five years.

The RFU's agreement with BSkyB (part-owned by News International, the owner of *The Times*) requires the television company to find a terrestrial partner offering delayed transmission, but Save and Prosper does not believe that that will offer the same benefits as live coverage. They and the Celtic nations, who now have an agreement with the BBC, would be fascinated to see whether England's £87.5 million deal falls down if no terrestrial partner is forthcoming.

Grayson's failure to find the magic touch proves costly

England supporters wended their way home, after a memorable match yet a defeat infinitely hard to swallow, wistfully longing for the sure, steady boot of a Rob Andrew. Stupendous recovery it may have been by France, from the verge of annihilation, yet accuracy by Paul Grayson, in both placekicking and out of hand, could and probably would have prevented France's heroic reversal.

What irony there was here. For years, there had been criticism of the remorseless kicking by Andrew, which had provided the platform for no less remorseless dominance by England packs, a parsimonious tally of tries yet a string of successes under Geoff Cooke's management. Give us open rugby, every-

body had pleaded, especially after the 1991 World Cup semi-final. Jack Rowell promised to do so. On Saturday, for 52 minutes, up to the moment of Grayson's dropped goal and then penalty goal that put England 20-6 in front, England did just that.

Rippling interplay and rapid handling by forwards and backs flooded the defence. It was the most exciting rugby seen from England at Twickenham in ten years, to my recollection.

The tries, though, did not come, apart from half-time. Had Grayson not squandered penalty kicks, admittedly against the wind, in the 28th and 38th minutes, and then the conversion of the try, England may indeed have been beyond reach.

David Miller applauds England's adventurous approach but laments their lack of tactical flexibility when France responded

Instead, they now suddenly started to flag. For eight grinding minutes, after the penalty goal that made it 20-6, France were camped on the England line in the left corner. The situation desperately called for the touch-finding eye of an Andrew to bring relief and a breather. Under intense pressure, Grayson's kicking was hurried and shallow.

When England finally dragged the ball upfield, twice more touch kicks flew straight into the arms of Sadourny, that great counter-attacking full back, or Venditti on the left wing. Immediately, the flamboyant, now inspired,

France backs were searing this way and that against a suddenly anxious defence. When Grayson did find reasonable length with a penalty kick for touch, England lost the lineout from which came the critical France try.

It would be harsh to say that one man's misjudgment on the day cost England victory, for this was ultimately a collective failure born of collective inexperience. As Rowell was quick to say, there are ten new faces in this still developing team.

Nor is the criticism suggesting that Grayson should be discarded, quite apart from

the fact that the better stand-off halves in English rugby are now foreign imports such as Lynagh and Stranksy. Grayson had played his part in the swashbuckling running of the first half to the full. In the seventh and fifteenth minutes, for instance, there had been moves of 11 and nine passes, respectively, England roaring across the field, the tumbling, stumbling blue-shirted tackles failing to halt a recently discovered confidence. How close England then were to duplicating their scores against Scotland and Ireland.

Rowell, his emotions temporarily sand-blasted by the

experience of watching eminent, imminent victory crumble to dust, reflected that it was difficult to close things down, to convert from open play to the pragmatic expediency so favoured by the Cooke regime. "We don't want to play like that," he said.


Yet flexibility of tactics is essential, and in this Rowell looks to de Glanville for on-field adjustment. On Saturday, for whatever reason, this was not to be seen.

Should Rowell have attempted tactical replacement? Perhaps Cati for Grayson and Healey for the troubled Gomersall, who looks so inventive in a winning team, but in a side under pressure tends regularly to choose the wrong option. "One has to be very careful," Rowell said. "I did think about it, but didn't want


to disrupt what was going on, believing that, once we got more ball, we would reimpose ourselves. France managed to turn the psychology of the game, and against good teams it's difficult to get that back."

Any great sporting event is dependent as much on the quality of the performance of the losers as of the winners. For spectators of either calling, this had been a magnificent afternoon of rugby, and, if England painfully learnt some lessons, it will have done them no harm provided that they have indeed learnt.

Rowell suggested that there would be few, if any, changes against Wales, but that up-and-coming candidates were going to get their chance. The Rowell revolution is by no means blown off course by this one marginal setback.



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WHO SET NEW RECORDS THIS MORNING

FOOTBALL: COVENTRY'S EARLY SURRENDER LEAVES UNITED WITH RELAXED WARM-UP FOR EUROPEAN CUP QUARTER-FINAL

Cantona returns in cruise control

Manchester United 3
Coventry City 1

By SIMON BARNES

"WHAT is the use of running away? I am sure to catch you. Little fool, look at me!" Darzee's wife knew better than to do that, for a bird who looks at a snake's eyes gets so frightened that she cannot move.

The parts of Darzee, the tailor-bird's wife and of Nagina, the snake, were played out before us at Old Trafford, with the difference that Coventry City did look into the eyes of the cobra, and the laws of *The Jungle Book* are ineluctable.

You could almost hear Cantona saying: "Little fool, look at me," as, after 3min

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45sec of the match, he pushed a through-ball in for Cole. And Breen looked, for he knew no better, and he and his team paid the price. He intercepted adroitly and, with exquisite placement, sent the ball rolling gently past his goalkeeper, Ogrizovic, and just inside the far post.

After 4min 34sec, Manchester United swept up the field again. Beckham, Giggs, Cruyff and then Cole shot. Wide, as usual, but Jess, too, had started in the serpentine eyes and was lost. He turned Cole's shot past his own goalkeeper. Two own goals within a minute, and that was the end of that as a compelling competitive spectacle.

Now there can be no doubting that United's power of rendering their opponents helpless with a basilisk stare is the gift of Cantona, who returned to the side on Satur-

day after one of his regular absences on suspension. In seasons past, his return would have been greeted with hosannas and a flourish of trumpets.

In fact, it was a routine absence, and his team have continued their routine progress in the FA Carling Premiership. Cantona in, Cantona out, it does not really matter these days, but not because Cantona is a lesser player than he was — although he is.

No, the fact is that these days, whether he is fit, injured or suspended, United have Cantona with them always. In a sense, Manchester United is Cantona. Football clichés come and go, but I think I can claim — modestly, modestly — to have invented one. This is the word "talismanic", and its adjective, "talismanic", as applied to a player whose value to the team is a semi-mystical thing, one that goes far beyond his individual contribution. Perhaps it was not me, but I think it was, and I used the word, naturally, for Cantona and the almost magical role that he played in the United side as it turned the corner from promise to fulfilment.

Perhaps, at his many former clubs, Cantona was hindered by the lack of a language barrier, but in Manchester there is no need for the ambiguities of verbal communication. Cantona can make a speech many pages long in exquisite blank verse, with resonant language and unforgettable imagery, simply by walking across the Old Trafford pitch with his collar up and his shoulder-blades touching.

It is that perfect self-belief that has infected Manchester United and everything they do. It fills them with utter self-delight, and their opponents with rage and fear, and the supporters of other teams up and down the country with coruscating hate.



Cantona beats Ogrizovic's despairing dive but fails to find the net during Manchester United's comfortable victory over Coventry City

It is said that a leader's greatest and final test is his departure, the handing-over of the reins. Perhaps this is true for a talisman as well. The fact is that Cantona is not quite the player that he was. He missed a handful of chances on Saturday.

These days he is more of a squad player than an absolute essential; but now, every player in the squad carries with him a little piece of Cantona. There are sublime talents in all kinds of places in the Premiership, but only one team walks in permanent

chir-high, chest-out certainly.

The monkey on the back for United has been European competition, and they finally got rid of that uncomfortable beast when they qualified from the Champions' League.

Since doing so, their league form has been unstoppable. They play FC Porto in the quarter-finals of the European Cup on Wednesday; back to fighting on two fronts, and a new range of questions is to be asked of them. The season turns before us.

The match on Saturday was

more like a pre-season friendly: cheerful sunlight, plenty of substitutions and changes in formation, bench-warmer getting a full match for a change, and Irwin, Beckham and Giggs all being substituted to save their energies.

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, substituted Evtushok, his Ukrainian defender, because the player was "in shock" after the two own goals, one of the better reasons for a substitution. Poborsky scored Manchester United's third with an angled drive early in the second half.

There were thoughts abroad that Coventry were even worse than the Ipswich side that were beaten 9-0 by United a season or so back, but the champions were not in a hungry mood. United supporters were streaming away with 15 minutes left, which meant that they missed Huckerby's well-taken consolation goal.

The eyes of Alex Ferguson, the United manager, lit up when Huckerby came up for discussion. Perhaps the steal of the season at £1 million from Newcastle United, he

looked a class above some of Ferguson's expensive acquisitions: Cole, Poborsky, Cruyff. Cantona was only a million quid himself. He remains English football's steal of the decade. In the team or out of it, in form or off his game, it no longer seems to matter. This is Cantona United.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2) P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, G. Pallister, D. May, D. Whitel — T. Neville, S. Hetherington, D. Beckham (sub. B. McCall, 62), R. Gigg (sub. R. Johnson, 71), J. Cruyff — A. Cole, E. Cantona. COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2) S. Ogrizovic — G. Breen, A. Evtushok (sub. P. Nkomo, 31), P. Williams — M. Hall (sub. P. Taylor, 40), R. Shaw, E. Jess, G. McCallister, N. Whistler — D. Huckerby, D. O'Brien. Referee: G. Barber.

Gallacher ensures Blackburn rise above the frenzy

Blackburn Rovers 1
Sunderland 0

By MARK HODKINSON

MONDAY morning, and a chill wind blows across the North East. Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, wanders among the tracksuits. "Right lads, take a jog to Newcastle and, when you get there, jump in the North Sea and swim down the coast to Hartlepool," he says.

Sunderland are a team of supreme athletes, with lungs to match their big hearts. They are the Royal Marines of the FA Carling Premiership — build them a wall, they will run through it.

Their shortcoming, and it is pretty fundamental, is dealing with the additional factor of a football. They can kick one far and high, but chaperoning it is another matter.

They average less than a goal per game, though their tackle ratio is probably the highest in the division. If there were an award for tackle of the month, we would habitually see slow-motion footage of Ball or Ord rising triumphantly from a tangle of arms, legs and shin pads.

Blackburn Rovers, in contrast, are fond of the quiet life. They pass the ball neatly and prefer to sidestep potential spats. Sunderland, the harbingers of hostility, would not let them go placidly amid the noise, and sucked them into a maelstrom. It took 84 minutes for Blackburn to assert their pre-eminence, when Gallacher drove a partial clearance through a cluster of players and into the Sunderland goal.

The boy stuck it away great and there is no use moaning about it," Reid said. "I felt it was going to be 0-0. This league is a good league to be in and you've got to scrap to stay in it. I was pleased with my lads today, but we have a problem scoring goals."

In spirit, at least, this was a 0-0. Neither team showed composure of character and all that remained was tedious endeavour. The wind swirled relentlessly, frustrating the good intentions of players such as Le Saux and Sherwood. Gallacher's sublime strike was the only moment when resolution met expertise.

"It was tiny; it looked like it would end up 0-0 from about ten past three," Tony Parkes, the Blackburn caretaker manager, said. "There was no flow. Sunderland don't give you a minute. They are harder to play against than a team like Manchester United."

He was asked whether a video of the match would be sent to Roy Hodgson, Blackburn's manager-in-waiting. "Only the last ten minutes," Parkes joked. The other 80 minutes may well be useful for a compilation of thunderous tackles, glorious head-clashes and as coaching aid, showing how to mistreat a football.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-1-2) T. Flowers — J. Kenna, R. Berg, C. Hendry, G. Le Saux — T. Shewell, L. Scholten, W. Lacey — G. Dennis (sub. P. Warhurst, 40), P. Pedersen (sub. N. Muller, 88), K. Gallacher. SUNDERLAND (4-4-2) L. Perez — G. Hall, A. Neville, R. Ord, D. O'Brien — D. Williams, P. Brown (sub. A. Reid, 49), V. Kinnear (sub. M. Smith, 84), J. Mullin (sub. C. Russell, 74), D. Kelly. Referee: R. Dicks.

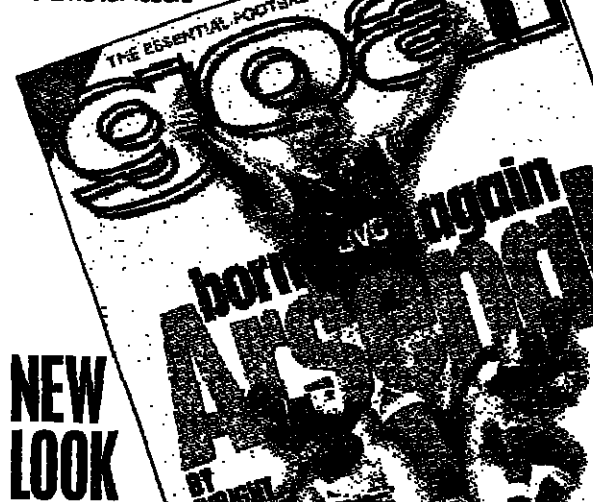
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Adams, Vieira, Bergkamp and Wright on Wenger's Highbury revolution

'Whatever it takes, I'll do it'

Stuart Pearce — no time for losers



THE ESSENTIAL FOOTBALL MONTHLY
APRIL ISSUE ON SALE NOW

Royle's music-hall jokers fail science test

Everton 0
Arsenal 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

THEY still talk about the "school of science" at Goodison Park. Indeed, the programme for the game on Saturday against Arsenal contained a two-page treatise on the subject.

For those with memories that do not span several decades, the Everton school of science described a visionary style of play crafted by Kendall, Ball and Harvey. It was football in its purer form; it is a style of play to which the club's supporters still aspire.

That is where the problems start for Joe Royle. He has

spent close on £20 million producing a side familiar only with the science of destruction and their performance on Saturday seemed to be following the basic principle of Chaos Theory.

Everton were truly, awesomely, inept. It is hard to recall a display from an FA Carling Premiership side quite as bad as that conjured up by them during the first half of this contest. It was so bad it became entertaining, a music-hall act.

If it was vaudeville, then David Unsworth was the attraction. After a howler to gift Dennis Bergkamp the first goal for Arsenal on 21 minutes, his performance descended to the level of farce. By the interval, the crowd was tempted to shout "behind

you" every time he loitered on the ball. A small improvement followed when Craig Short went on for him after the break, but it was far too late.

"I don't think Arsenal could believe how easy it was to take the points without even playing well," he said. "We were just not good enough, and now we are looking over our shoulder at the relegation scrap. We really are going to have to do much better — and sooner rather than later."

Yet Royle is the who has spent so much money over three seasons to produce a side that is not good enough. There are many reasons for such a decline, principal among them the fact that Royle's management style is

at odds with Everton's tradition. He has always built teams that scrap their way to victory and buys players in that image, but such tactics are obsolete in the foreign inspired Premiership.

One suspects that Royle may already have been scouring the situations vacant column had Everton possessed among their backroom staff a candidate for caretaker-manager.

Royle had to look at Arsène Wenger on Saturday to see the way forward for a Premiership manager. He has crafted a side of balance — skill and commitment combined in equal measures to create a team with too much technique and intelligence for Everton.

They killed off Everton in

the first half and brazened out a more physical second period. Bergkamp embarrassed Unsworth and then Southall with a near-post shot, and then Ian Wright repeated the trick on 27 minutes with a goal that owed much to glorious touch and instinct.

Wenger, though, was still cautious, refusing to be carried away by a performance against a side of such obvious restriction. "I think we will need to defeat a few more teams before we can believe we can get back into the title chase," he smiled.

EVERTON (4-3-1-2) N. Southall — E. Barnett, D. Watson, D. Unsworth (sub. C. Short, 40), I. Preece — J. Richardson, G. Thompson, G. Speed — M. Barry (sub. M. Branch, 48) — D. Ferguson, G. Stuart. ARSENAL (3-5-2) J. Lukic — M. Kavanagh, R. Carr (sub. S. Morrow, 48), S. Marshall — L. Dixon, D. Pugh, P. Vieira, S. Hughes, N. Winterburn — I. Wright, D. Bergkamp. Referee: P. Dutton.

Sharpe settles dull affair

Leeds United 1
West Ham United 0

By PETER BALL

TWENTY-TWO years after his first novel, Joseph Heller wrote his second. It was called *Something Happened*. It took 600 pages before something did. It did not take quite that long at Elland Road on Saturday, it just felt like it.

This was simply an awful game — one that deserved to finish 0-0 rather than one in which Leeds United gained three points, which, incredibly, leaves them approaching a pocket of safety between clubs in the bottom half of the table, who could all still be relegated, and the half-dozen with European pretensions.

There are now two leagues in the FA Carling Premiership. People who watch the top teams on television may believe the hype about the greatness of the entertainment on offer. Those who go to Elland Road regularly know the truth — that, a top six or so apart, the standard is poor.

There were excuses on Saturday. The pitch is appalling. "The worst in the Premiership," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, said afterwards. A swirling wind made conditions worse, blowing so much litter across the ground that it resembled a

windswept park on a summer bank holiday. "Someone behind me said: 'There's a lot of rubbish on the pitch', and I thought he was talking about the players," George Graham, the Leeds manager, said.

He might have been, though. The goal was the only event worth noting and, in keeping with everything else, it was a chapter of West Ham errors. "The goal was scandalous, a Sunday morning goal," Redknapp said.

Dicks took some of the blame, but the main culpability was Miklosko's, the goalkeeper coming out too slowly as Dicks shepherd the ball. "He had enough time to come and throw his cap on it," Redknapp said.

Instead, the ever-willing Deane came in behind them and got a foot in. All three

went down, the ball squirmed loose and Sharpe, following up, extricated it from the bodies and side-footed home.

"I said to them at half-time that the only way we could lose this was if we made a mistake, because it was a banker 0-0," Redknapp said, "and so what do they do? It took them two minutes."

Slaven Bilic, the West Ham defender, agreed. "Leeds were very poor at the front, it was easy to cope with them, but the goal was very, very stupid," he said. "We tried to come back, but we didn't deserve to score because we were a bit poor up front as well."

They were, although, with Hartson suspended, only half the new strike force was on show. Dowie played the poor man's Hartson, throwing his elbows around. He looked a much better candidate for a red card than Hughes, who was dismissed for a little kick at Radebe, more petulant than vicious. Dowie, though, did hit the bar and Kitson put one half-chance, and one very good one, wide.

"I still think we'll get out of it," Redknapp said. Not like this, though.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-3) N. Martyn — G. Hailo, D. Worrall, R. Mendenhall, P. Harte — I. Rush, L. Radebe, L. Bowyer (sub. C. Palmer, 40), M. Sharpe — A. Vabosh, B. Deane. WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2) L. Miklosko — R. Ferdinand, S. Bilic, J. Dicks — T. Brooker (sub. E. Omogbeni, 63), J. Monaghan, I. Basha (sub. J. Lampard, 63), M. Hughes, N. Bowler (sub. K. Rowland, 64) — P. Nelson, I. Dowie. Referee: P. Jones.

Middlesbrough fall short

Sheffield Wednesday 3
Middlesbrough 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

A NUMBER of people were expressing the opinion before this game that Middlesbrough's latest cup success, the muddy midweek triumph away to Stockport County, might finally inspire some decent league form in those schizophrenic under-achievers — which goes to show how wrong you can be.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, knew that recent history had been against it. "Every time we've played in the Coca-Cola Cup on a Wednesday, we've had our poorest performance of the season the following Saturday," he said. "In cup games, we fly out of the blocks. When we come back to the league, we're lethargic until something happens in the game."

It took 20 humdrum minutes in a difficult, swirling wind for something to happen on Saturday, and, inevitably, it happened to Middlesbrough. Pembroke was allowed to send in a hanging near-post cross and Booth headed Wednesday into the lead.

The goal woke Middlesbrough, but, although they caused moments of panic, they

were unable to trouble Pressman. Instead, Wednesday went further ahead when Carbone flicked a pass over the defence; amid appeals for a handling offence as Mustoe attempted to clear, Hyde collected the loose ball and put it coolly past Schwarzer.

Licensing Emerson to go forward at half-time gave Middlesbrough a more attacking look. One of his passes found Ravanelli, but he delayed his shot and the chance was gone. However, if Robson's plan was to lull Wednesday into a false sense of security, it worked. Emerson was allowed one pass too many and Steve Nicol, attempting an interception, found the ball rising off his outstretched shin and over the head of Pressman.

Middlesbrough were un-

able to capitalise on this and a semblance of justice was restored to the scoreline in the final minute when Vickers held back Booth after gifting the ball to him, Pembroke scoring emphatically from the penalty.

"We scored at vital times," David Pleat, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, said. However, while he nobly refused to be drawn on Robson's difficulties, some comments were revealing. "No individual is more important than the team," he said. "You've got to have players who want to play when the other team have the ball."

Robson, who faces league and FA Cup games against Derby County this week, was understandably subdued, even when it was suggested that such performances often result in dismissal for managers not advancing towards Wembley on two fronts. "In the first half it was very poor," he said. "The lads battled hard in the second half, but it was too late. Too late too, perhaps, for Middlesbrough's Premiership status."

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-1-2) A. Pressman — S. Nicol, J. Newsome, D. Walker, I. Nolan — G. Hyde (sub. D. Snelgrove, 50min), P. C. Hendry, G. Le Saux — T. Shewell, L. Scholten, W. Lacey — G. Dennis (sub. P. Warhurst, 40), P. Pedersen (sub. N. Muller, 88), K. Gallacher. MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2) L. Perez — G. Hall, A. Neville, R. Ord, D. O'Brien — D. Williams, P. Brown (sub. A. Reid, 49), V. Kinnear (sub. M. Smith, 84), J. Mullin (sub. C. Russell, 74), D. Kelly. Referee: G. Willard.



Robson: subdued



Redknapp: complained

FOOTBALL: FRENCHMAN'S SECOND-HALF DISMISSAL TRANSFORMS BASEBALL GROUND ENCOUNTER AS GULLIT'S MEN LOSE THEIR WAY

Rare lapse by Leboeuf hands initiative to Derby



Leboeuf instinctive

AS HE made the lonely trek from the field, his head bowed in resignation, Frank Leboeuf cast his eyes towards the touchline, where a sympathetic figure extended a hand. He accepted it, briefly, before continuing through the tunnel into the dressing-room to reflect in solitude.

The friendly palm belonged to Jim Smith. Seconds later it was formed into a clenched fist and raised towards the sky in delight. As Smith, the Derby County manager, appreciated, Leboeuf, unable to conquer his instinct, had literally handed the advantage to Derby.

Chelsea were 2-1 ahead, the game entering its final half-hour, when Leboeuf thrust out his limb in a desperate bid to prevent Daryl Powell's shot from crossing the line. Retribution was instant. Leboeuf, who had given his side the lead eight minutes earlier, knew his fate before Alan Wilkie, the referee,

reached for his red card, and Alijosa Asanovic converted from the spot.

"I thought the ball had already crossed the line and my only hope was that the referee would give the goal," Leboeuf said. "I have no guilt. I did not make a mistake because I tried to save a goal, but I knew the consequences immediately."

How the game changed. Much has been written since last August of Chelsea's cosmopolitan flair, but until Leboeuf's dismissal, their resolve in defence had been more conspicuous. Leboeuf was a step ahead of the Derby attackers, while Steve Clarke proved a robust barrier and Frode Grodas, the goalkeeper, remained sound under a succession of high balls.

Rud Gullit, the player-manager, introduced himself at the expense of Vialli and moved into the back three. There, he proved a loose cannon. Each time he strode for-

ward in possession, Derby worked harder to secure the ball and exploit the gap. Indeed, Gullit was forced off 17 minutes after his introduction having made a tackle on Powell. A reluctant player this season, an ankle injury has removed the option for the near future.

Chelsea regrouped for a second time, but the question was whether Derby, pressing relentlessly now, could take the lead, having recovered parity twice, in the time remaining. Grodas parried a shot from Powell and Ashley Ward hit over from the edge of the six-yard box as the tension intensified.

The Derby supporters had grown restless at the time taken to treat Gullit. Ultimately, they were grate-

ful for the injury time that it generated. With 92 minutes gone, Gary Rowett hooked in a cross from the left and, when Grodas attempted to smother Dean Sturridge's shot, the ball trickled to Ward, who scored from three yards.

Maybe Chelsea were still feeling the effects of FA Cup tie against Leicester last Wednesday, not only the draining 120 minutes, but also the subsequent publicity that surrounded the decisive penalty. Erland Johnsen was absent, Eddie Newton strained a calf in the warm-up and Gullit opted to rest Gianfranco Zola.

However, Vialli rarely posed a threat, as far behind the play as Leboeuf was in front of it. The fact

that Derby were vulnerable when Roberto di Matteo carried the ball from midfield implied that Zola would have enjoyed himself, especially as the pitch did not cut up as Gullit anticipated.

Derby themselves had no qualms in feeding Asanovic, their own will-o'-the-wisp. Over Christmas and new year he became lost in the physical demands of his central position no matter how many minders Smith employed around him. Here, kissing the left touchline, he found space aplenty.

"We have started to realise that you can give a quality player the ball even when he is marked," Smith said of Asanovic. "He actually likes it when there is somebody tight on him because he can turn."

Asanovic began the move that led to Derby's first equaliser, in the 51st minute, an own goal from Scott Minto that Ward has claimed.

Minto had given Chelsea the lead in the fifteenth minute when he broke along the left, as a good wing back should, to meet an incisive pass from Paul Hughes.

Despite Chelsea trailing Manchester United, the leaders, by 15 points, Graham Rix remained adamant that they are still potential champions when he addressed the press in the absence of Gullit, who was receiving treatment afterwards. "The pleasing thing is that we showed great spirit and determination despite everything that went wrong," Rix, the assistant manager, said. It seemed a very un-Chelsea thing to say.

DERBY COUNTY (4-3-3): R. Hout — C. Doherty, I. Barnes, J. Leeson — I. Goss, R. van der Laan, D. Powell, G. Rowett — D. Sturridge, A. Ward, A. Asanovic. CHELSEA (3-5-2): F. Grodas — S. Clarke, F. Leboeuf, A. Myers — F. Sinclair, R. A. Maltby, D. Wicks, P. Hughes (sub: J. Morris, 78min), S. Minto (sub: M. Hughes, 61min), G. Gullit (sub: R. Gullit, 61min), M. Nichols, 78. Referee: A. Wilkie.

Wright pulls out the stops to complete Bassett's day

Tottenham Hotspur..... 0
Nottingham Forest..... 1

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

IT WAS Dave Bassett's first game with Nottingham Forest, Tommy Wright's last. Forest won it, thanks to a goal of inspired opportunism by Dean Saunders, but, above all, thanks to a superb exhibition of goalkeeping by Wright.

Bassett, who has suddenly jumped ship from soggy Selhurst Park, is the new general manager of Forest, lining up alongside Stuart Pearce, his player-manager, whose return to the side on Saturday was important.

Wright, the Northern Ireland goalkeeper, has been on loan to Manchester City, and will return to them, permanently, today. "Tommy Wright did his business," Bassett said. "He made a couple of good blocks." It was a case of damning with faint

Steve McManaman..... 33
Fading Feetbams..... 33
Bolton stretch lead..... 33

praise. Bassett was nearer the mark when he added: "The good thing for him is he knew he was going; the result for him wasn't important. It shows what a good professional he is."

Those of us who saw the series of small miracles that Wright pulled off a few weeks ago in Palermo, playing for Northern Ireland against Italy, were hardly surprised.

Wright began his series of saves after 12 minutes. Steffen Iversen, the blond Norwegian striker, came in from the left on to Sheringham's pass; Wright repelled his shot. Five minutes from half-time, when Wilson shot from the left, Wright got to that, as well — but his best saves were reserved for the second half.

The half was three minutes old when Chettle bizarrely missed his kick. Sheringham's drive was blocked by Jerkan, Nielsen thumped the ball back again, but Wright turned it over the bar. Four minutes later, when Sheringham slid Iversen through a gap, Wright hurried himself to save that shot, too. Then, after 81 minutes, he dived bravely at Sheringham's feet for good measure.

Sheringham's ankle has not yet healed, but, when Gerry

Francis, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, discovered that Darren Anderton's hamstring had tightened up, he decided that Sheringham had to play. Francis, strangely, said nothing about Wright, but lamented his team's poor finishing. "We've certainly created our chances, we've certainly made our opportunities, but we haven't taken them," he said. "When you do that, you can't make any excuses."

Forest's main chance went in with a vengeance. After 17 minutes, with Tottenham's defence torpid, Pearce took a free kick, which Chettle moved on to Saunders. There seemed little danger until Saunders electrically pivoted and hit a deadly, low, right-footed shot into the opposite corner of the goal.

Football being the perverse game that it is, Forest could even have doubled the lead when Haaland found himself clear with just Walker to beat, but his shot was weak.

Irving Scholar, the new saviour of Forest, who denies that he was ever Tottenham's ruin, did not attend a game that might have given him a deep satisfaction. Under his volatile regime, Tottenham failed in their commercial schemes, had to sell their training ground and nearly brought in Robert Maxwell.

Now Scholar and his group are supposedly putting £16 million into the pot. Bassett insists that it will not be spent rashly. "You give the players in charge a chance, first," he said. "If we do sign anybody, we want to make sure it's the right guy."

At Pearce's behest, Bassett had a few things to say at half-time, and, although he will be going to the training ground, Bassett insists that Pearce is still the main man, even if his desire is to go on playing.

"He's a bright enough fellow to know what he wants," Bassett said. "He knows he's going to be Nottingham Forest's manager in a few years. I'll probably be dead." As for Tottenham, who play at Roker Park tomorrow, Francis said: "I'm quite happy to go to Sunderland, have a disastrous performance and win 1-0."

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-5-2): Walker — G. Caldwell, S. Campbell, J. Steele — D. Austin (sub: R. Rosenthal, 72min), A. Nielsen, A. Smith (sub: J. Dorrell, 58), D. Howell, C. Wilson — E. Sheringham, S. Iversen.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-5-1): T. Wright — D. Lytle, S. Christie, N. Jordan, S. Pearce — N. Clough, C. Cooper, A. I. Hoaland, C. Allen (sub: D. Phillips, 55), S. Gammell — D. Saunders.

Referee: J. Wright

Newcastle betray signs of weakness

Newcastle United..... 0
Southampton..... 1

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

PROWLING round their dug-outs like caged tigers, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness made no attempt to disguise their feelings on Saturday. Being a football manager can render the most reasonable of men emotionally naked for 90 minutes, no matter how familiar they are with the game's capacity to scupper the best-laid plans. At such times, it is not hard to sympathise with them, for all the money they earn.

As Souness had the greater need of three points, his relief exceeded Dalglish's frustration. Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager, should know by now that, having inherited a defence slow in wit and limb, that he is unlikely to add another championship to the ones that he won at Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers; not this year, at any rate. Southampton may yet go down, but at least this result gives them hope. By winning, they proved something important to themselves.

This is a week of truth for Newcastle. Tomorrow night they play AS Monaco in the first leg of their UEFA Cup quarter-final tie without the convalescing Shearer and the suspended Asprilla — and, possibly, without Ferdinand, who tweaked his hamstring during the first half on Saturday. A week today, they go to Anfield for a match that they must win to retain an interest in the FA Carling Premiership title.

They did not show nearly enough interest against Southampton. Asprilla flattered to some effect and Ginola made a couple of pleasing runs when he replaced Ferdinand, but this was a disjointed performance. Newcastle looked moderate, nowhere near the equals of Manchester United, whom they lashed 5-0 three months ago amid much waving of scarves and clanking of rattles.

Shearer obviously means a lot to them as goalscorer and general talisman, and they will miss him badly, just as United have, on occasions, missed Cantona. The difference is that, where Alex Ferguson has other key players in Keane, Giggs, Schuster and Beckham (not to mention a solid, underrated defender like Irwin), Newcastle have one other player of real stature, and he — Peter Beardsley — is not considered worthy of a place in the side, even when the side is patched up.

It is said that Beardsley's legs have gone, but, even if that is so, there is always a brain ticking away and Newcastle could have done with some of his intelligence in the 71 minutes that he did



Le Tissier strikes the winner, a left-footed volley, at St James' Park

not play on Saturday, when the game was there to be shaped. Lee does not make things happen; he responds to others' prompts. Clark has never accomplished much and Barton is a jobbing pro.

To give Southampton their due, they defended in depth and their goal was protected splendidly by Taylor, who saved well from Ferdinand and Gillespie and gave a general impression of competence. Newcastle attacked desperately towards the end, Neilson blocking one shot by Albert with his face. Albert then heading over from a good position. Nobody can deny, though, that, for their spirited resistance, Southampton were worth the win.

Their goal came from Le Tissier's left foot and was struck from 18 yards as he raced onto Van Gool's long ball from right back. Beautifully taken as it was, one had to wonder just what Albert and Peacock were doing. Even on the wrong side of 40, Hansen and Lawrenson, Dalglish's former Liverpool teammates, could surely play better in their civvies than this pairing.

With better luck and a steadier aim, Ostenstad could have hit a hat-trick before half-time. Albert denied him with a fine tackle on one occasion, but that merely compensated for his initial error in allowing Ostenstad to get away from him in the first place. Where Ostenstad was indulgent, Le Tissier exacted a

merciless price when he got his chance and nobody in the stadium could have been the least bit surprised.

It will be surprising if Dalglish does not amend significantly the team that he has taken over, but it will take longer than a week to sort it out and it will cost a few bob. Certainly, Jean Tigana, the coach of Monaco, who was at St James' Park, will have a simple message to impart to his players: Newcastle are there for the taking.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S. Heston — S. Wattson, D. Peacock, P. Albert, R. Elliott — K. Gillespie, R. Lee, W. Barton, L. Clark (sub: P. Beardsley, 71min) — F. Asprilla, L. Ferdinand (sub: D. Ginola, 45).

SOUTHAMPTON (4-5-1): M. Taylor — U. van Gool, G. Clundie, R. O'Flynn, F. Berall — S. Charlton (sub: R. Slater, 51), J. Magilton, A. Nelson, M. Le Tissier (sub: C. Warren, 77), E. Beardsley (sub: N. Middleton, 67) — E. Ostenstad.

Referee: M. Bodenham.

Elliott making most of late opportunity

Wimbledon..... 1
Leicester City..... 3

By PAT GIBSON

TIME seemed to stand still at Selhurst Park on Saturday when a corner from the left flicked off the head of a Wimbledon defender and landed invitingly at the feet of Matt Elliott, who was standing in splendid isolation on the right hand corner of the six-yard box.

So much so that John Robertson, the Leicester City coach, who knew a little bit about taking his time when he was playing on the left wing for Nottingham Forest, was almost tearing his hair out and shouting: "He's taking too long."

Martin O'Neill, the manager, knew better. He was far more relaxed as Elliott, his shaven-headed, 6ft 3in central defender let the ball bounce a couple of times before drilling it unerringly past Sullivan in the Wimbledon goal.

"I knew he wouldn't take too long," O'Neill said afterwards. "He fancies himself as a goalscorer. He fancies himself full stop."

It was meant to be a compliment. Elliott is neither the hard man he looks nor the big head O'Neill made him sound. He is a thoroughly honest professional who has reached the heights of the FA Carling Premiership the hard way, and he is now making the most of the opportunity he has been given at the age of 28.

Elliott has something in common with Wimbledon's own talismanic Vinnie Jones, in that he went off to work in the building trade, labouring, roofing, that kind of thing, after turning his back on football at 14 because he found the prospect of signing school-boy forms for Crystal Palace "a bit too heavy".

He re-emerged in non-League football with Epsom and Ewell, joined Charlton Athletic only to be released after one season, and then worked his way up through the ranks with Torquay United, Scunthorpe United and Oxford United, before Leicester paid £1.6 million for him a few weeks ago.

The bargain of the season? "I wouldn't get carried away on one game," O'Neill said, "but he has been brilliant for us and today he was a colossus."

While Jones's celebrity status was being confirmed by an invitation to start the National Lottery, Elliott was inspiring Leicester to a victory that lifted them to an improbable tenth in the Premiership and which,

in financial terms, could be worth even more than the jackpot.

O'Neill is still looking over his shoulder at the teams below them ("I'm always concerned," he said. "We might not get another point."), but he is running out of adjectives to describe the achievements of a team who were favourites to go straight back down after scraping into the Premiership through the play-offs.

This time he chose "unbelievable" and "frightening" after they had shrugged off the bitter midweek disappointment of going out of the FA Cup to that cruel Chelsea penalty by scoring three goals in the first 32 minutes. Elliott helped himself to a second, again at the far post from a corner, but with greater alacrity from closer range, and Robins added a third with a spectacular overhead kick after the impressive Heskey had pulled the ball back from the byline.



Elliott: double strike

Wimbledon were without Leonhardson, Ekoku and Gayle, as well as Jones, but that hardly excused the inept defending which suggested that the prospect of playing in two cup finals is having its effect, for all the protestations of Joe Kinnear, their manager, to the contrary.

They were sufficiently stung to launch a sustained second half barrage, but all it yielded was one goal, ferociously lashed in by Holdsworth in the 67th minute as Leicester, themselves missing key players in Keller, Parker, Claridge and Marshall, rode the luck they deserved.

Kinnear kept his players locked in the dressing-room for an age on Saturday night to clear their heads "for the game away to Coventry City tonight, which will be their fourth in nine days."

WIMBLEDON (4-3-3): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Perry, D. Blackwell, A. Kinnear — P. Fayer, R. East, N. Ardley — J. Goodman (sub: S. Cresswell, 83min), J. Holdsworth, A. Charles (sub: M. Hayward, 45).

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Prole — S. Prior, M. Elliott, S. Wattson — S. Grayson, S. Taylor (sub: J. Lawrence, 70), N. Lennon, M. Izatt, S. Guppy — E. Heskey, M. Robins, R. Palmer, G. Akerly.

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Small clubs have to accept the hand that feeds them

Does anybody know what a feeder club is? The announcement of closer links between Liverpool and Crewe Alexandra has inspired a lot of talk about how smaller clubs must face up to the future by becoming "feeder" clubs, but I am not sure many people fully understand the concept.

Crewe are certainly not going to be a feeder club for Liverpool. As I understand it, the clubs are forging closer ties which are mutually beneficial, but Liverpool do not get automatic first call on their players — that is still dictated by the market.

I don't think the Crewe fans would be happy with anything more formal than that, because it would be selling off the identity of their team. Instead of being a small club with a big reputation and a realistic prospect of going even higher than they are at

present in the Nationwide League, they would simply be Liverpool reserves.

Crewe could easily win promotion to the first division next season and, with the wealth of young talent they have, who knows where they could go from there? This is what I have against the feeder-club system. Football is about dreams, even if they are outrageous dreams.

'Sadly, I can see it is the way forward'

Supporters want to believe that their team, no matter how small, can do a Wimbledon — or even a Crewe — and move up the divisions.

They want to believe that their team can do a Chesterfield or Wrexham, and stand on the verge of the FA Cup semi-final. Or do a Stockport, and have real hope for the future, even in the shadow of such popular clubs as Manchester United and City.

But if your club is a feeder club, what then? When you produce a

decent young player, surely he will automatically be swept off by the bigger club? If that happens regularly, then there would be no hope of going any higher because you would constantly lose your best players. How can supporters put up with that? They wouldn't have any dreams, any crazy ideas; they would just have a reserve team plodding along in a lower division.

In saying all that, sadly I can see that it is the way forward. The Bosman ruling will have more impact on the future of the game than anyone yet imagines. At the top, there will be difficulties in holding on to players and in meeting the wage demands of the very best players because they are bound to spiral. The free transfer market at the end of contracts will ensure that.

But the big clubs will survive, flourish even, because the money coming into the game at the highest level seems to increase all the time. Television deals, share flotations, pay-per-view... they

STEVE McMANAMAN



all bring the money into the game that makes the biggest clubs look healthier propositions than ever before.

At the bottom, though, it will be a different story. Clubs in the lower divisions have, for years, sold their best players to survive. If that avenue is denied them — as it largely will be under the

Bosman ruling — then what do they have left? Only those clubs with healthy youth programmes that ensure a constant stream of new players will survive, but how do they pay for it?

The feeder system is the answer, but there is a heavy price to pay. Long-term survival under such circumstances means that the very identity of the club will be undermined. It is a bit like selling your soul to the devil.

There doesn't seem to be any other easy option, though. You can see, for instance, why Crewe would want closer ties with Liverpool. If they have an agreement with us, they could get a sensible fee for players — such as Rob Jones — that come to us, when otherwise, under Bosman, they would get little or nothing if they went elsewhere. They will also benefit by taking some of the decent players we have who don't quite make it. Phil Charnock, for instance, has gone to Gresty Road recently and done well.

In the past, when a smaller club

has got into financial difficulty, someone has always come along and put the money up to save it. I hope that continues. I really do, because I would hate to see the identity of football in this country changed dramatically, but I fear that it cannot continue along the same lines for ever.

Brighton, Bournemouth and Millwall are all struggling, and there are many more in similar positions. You get the feeling that when one goes it will collapse like a house of cards and a whole batch of smaller clubs will go under, because there are simply not that many people out there these days prepared to put in the sort of money required to keep a club going.

When people at other clubs see what is going on, they will naturally question their own long-term prospects. It could be a domino effect. Football needs

constant new blood, it needs the lower divisions. That is why I think that clubs that do survive will be courted by their bigger neighbours, at least to establish ties such as we have with Crewe and Juventus are apparently trying to establish with Oxford. It is a relatively uncomplicated way of ensuring that some of the money at the top trickles down.

Supporters of the smaller clubs will surely not enjoy the prospect of their team churning out players for other teams to enjoy their best years, but there could be some advantages. If Crewe reach the play-offs at the end of May, then there could be at least two loan forms winging their way to Football League headquarters in Blackpool. S. McManaman and R. Fowler — two promising youngsters who might be able to do a bit of a job for them at Wembley. Fair enough?

'But there is a heavy price to pay'

Rivals tread warily on trapdoor to obscurity

Andrew Longmore goes in search of endangered species at Darlington

A makeshift wooden archway adorned the entrance to Darlington Football Club. It swayed alarmingly in the gale that swept down across Safe-ways and the Grange Road Baptist Church on Saturday. "The galemen remarked, without saying which one. Actually, it carried the hot-water pipe for the showers, which have been moved — no one quite knows why — to an orange Legoland of Portakabins in the northwest corner of the ground.

Half an hour before kick-off, Hugh Pender risked life and limb beneath the creaking galewinds and made his way to his usual station at the foot of another condemned pile of wood, known as the East Stand, and prepared to watch the side that has long since replaced Falkirk as the first love of his footballing life. "We've had some grand times," he mused. "We're either up the top or down the bottom. Never anything in between." Inside three seasons, Darlington went out of the league, returned, and were promoted to the old third division.

It takes a peculiar kind of perverseness to support a side fourth from bottom of the Nationwide League third division when there are three perfectly serviceable FA Cup Premier League clubs within an easy train ride, but with his gnome-like white beard and irrepressible humour, you

sense a non-conformist character well suited to a side nicknamed The Quakers.

In 1947, Pender captained a Scotland schoolboys team that included Ian McMillan and John Little, future internationals. He had to borrow Willie Waddell's shorts, which were about three sizes too big. His son, Rod, thought the tales fanciful until a letter arrived from the Scottish Football Association confirming the details and enclosing a tie and a trophy. Hugh Pender is 68 and has supported Darlington up and down for 30 years: all home games, many away.

"Last season, when we equalised against Scunthorpe [United] to get into the play-offs, I ended up six rows down the stand on my back," he said. His true Scottish venom is reserved for the big-spenders of Middlesbrough and Newcastle United. "They're squeezing the lifeblood out of the game because of sheer greed," he said. "How can you pay a player £25,000 a week, some not very good players, too."

These are not grand times at Feethams and not even a 2-0 victory over Brighton and Hove Albion eased the worries over the future of the self-styled friendly club. "Whatever they do out there," Keith Robson, the editor of *The Tinsed* — the pre-establishment one of the two fanzines — said, pointing across the deserted pitch, "if we don't have a brick laid for the new stand by the end of April, there



The tension of life in the football basement is evident on the Brighton and Hove Albion bench during their match at Feethams

might not be a club here anyway." That is when the £750,000 grant from the Football Trust expires, and the club is struggling to find the money to finance an ambitious 10,000-seat stadium on the present site.

The real finished is quaint, but not quite what Lord Justice Taylor had in mind for his spick and span vision of lower-league football in the next millennium. There have been demonstrations, which gave the "Darlo" diaphanous something other than desperation in common with the visiting supporters. Robson found a ready market for his magazine among the fellow rebels in the Brighton end, where a "sack the board" banner was hung as a matter of course over the back railing.

It served as a reminder to

David Bellotti, the Brighton chief executive, that his domestic troubles cannot be left south of the M25. At least he can sit in the directors' box away from home. At home, he is reduced to peeping between the stands.

Bellotti had a particular milestone to celebrate on Saturday, commemorated in a snapshot taken by a bemused Darlington steward. The visit to Feethams has completed Bellotti's set of 92 League grounds — an apt comment, if any were needed in this turbulent season, on the roller-coaster ride of Brighton through the divisions. From first (Highbury, in December 1974) to last (Feethams, March 1997), all teams and results have been recorded in a light-blue exercise book. "Actually, it's 96 grounds because some

clubs have gone out of the league and some have moved," he said.

Though bankrupt Bournemouth and their own on-field revival under Steve Gritt, the new manager, have given his club a glimmer of hope denied them when they were 13 points adrift before Christmas, Brighton could still be the next in line. Talks next week with the consortium bidding to take over the club might ease the crisis, but they will never satisfy the rump of supporters who do not consider Gillingham to be a decent alternative to the Goldstone Ground.

With a trapdoor out of the League creaking open for the losers on Saturday, the match was "a six-pointer". Ken Lavery, a former policeman turned secretary of Darlington, said, resorting to football

shorthand. End-game, more like. A surprise victory by Doncaster Rovers, the club second from bottom, over Wigan Athletic the previous night had heightened the tension.

In the changing-rooms minutes before kick-off, Gritt told his players to keep it tight for the first half. David Hodgson, his opposite number, asked his men for effort to match their skill. "If it comes down to football, we're better than them," he said.

He was right, too. The Quakers coped better with the gale than the Seagulls, scoring early through a free kick from Blake and increasing their lead with a neat, curling shot from Twynham midway through the first half. Strong and pacy, Twynham arrived at Feethams from Manchester United via the local prison and

could be the next sale to save off the VAT-man.

Victory put Darlington eight points clear of Brighton. Whether that ensures their survival is another matter. Hodgson dismissed all talk of distractions. "As long as they've got hot water, showers and a pot of tea, the players are happy," he said. The referee was not. His shower was cold — but Pender went home whistling. He had written to Hodgson in the week, telling him what team to pick. "You know, he did exactly what I told him to," he said.

DARLINGTON (4-4-2): V. Molander — S. Shaw, A. Crosby, A. Pender, R. Hogg — S. Alderson (sub: R. Kelly, 85min), G. Twynham, G. Taylor, A. Carr — R. Blake, D. Roberts (sub: G. Vines, 55).
BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION (4-2-2): M. O'Connor — P. Smith, G. Hodgson, D. Allen, S. Luck — R. Palmer, D. McDonald (sub: S. Pook, 82), K. Mayo, P. McDonald (sub: S. Fox, 78) — I. Burt, C. Mould.
Referee: G. Cairn.

Blake goal proves a worthy winner

Bolton Wanderers 1
West Bromwich Albion 0

By Peter Ball

THE Nationwide League first division championship is becoming less a race than a procession. Bolton Wanderers yesterday extended their lead at the top to 12 points, winning an untidy match with a bit more to spare than the narrow margin suggests.

The goal that won it, though, would have stood out in any game. Nathan Blake's effort ranked with any of his spectacular goals this season as he picked the ball up just inside West Bromwich Albion's half to advance and slam the ball left-footed into the top corner from fully 20 yards. Miller got his fingertips to it, but it would have needed a lot more than that to intercept it.

The goal apart, it was not one of Bolton's better performances. A dead pitch and a high wind put a premium on control and passing accuracy, but it did not need to be one of their better performances, either.

West Bromwich offered little as a creative force without Hunt and Peschisolidi; but perhaps they are also embarrassed by their yellow and baby-blue kit, which no self-respecting Sunday pub side would have dared to wear.

Instead of drawing attention to themselves by causing problems, they were happy to try to keep it tight, but Blake's goal ended that play just before half-time.

West Bromwich have now lost three of their four games since Ray Harford took over, and, once they went behind yesterday, there was little suggestion that they would come back.

"There is a bit of work to be done, but I was pleased with our defending," Harford said. "We showed good discipline and organisation and there was a time when I thought Bolton were running out of ideas. We were missing a couple of key strikers and were always going to be a little bit paperweight up front."

If West Bromwich defended well as a unit, as Harford claimed, there was little doubt that the key figure was Alan Miller, who made his debut on loan from Middlesbrough a memorable one with splendid saves to deny McGinlay and Frandsen.

Had one of those gone in, it would have given a fairer reflection of the play. With Frandsen and Sellers supplying the moments of quality on view, Bolton always looked to have the extra class.

Their position at the top clearly reflects that. Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said: "When I look at the game, I think Keith Brannagan had perhaps one shot to save, and overall we never looked like conceding a goal. The conditions weren't ideal, but we stuck at it. We're in the driving seat now."

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Brannagan — G. Borgeaux, C. Farquhar, G. Tappin, J. Franks — D. Lee (sub: M. Johnson, 85min), J. Pothol, P. Franksen, S. Sellers — J. McGinlay, N. Blake.
WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-1-1-1): A. Miller — P. Holmes, S. Murphy, P. Rawson, P. Agnew (sub: G. Pater, 74) — P. Butler, K. Donovan, J. Harrison, H. Snelgrove — D. Smith (sub: M. Rodonchous, 48), R. Taylor.
Referee: J. Kinley.

□ Dalian Atkinson's return to English football with Manchester City has been delayed because Fenerbahce, his club, still owes Aston Villa £250,000. Atkinson was sold by Brian Little, the Villa manager, to Fenerbahce for £500,000 in the summer of 1995, but the Turkish club has still to pay half of that fee and any deal with City will have to be put on ice until the matter has been resolved.

Harding in a hurry to make mark

THERE is nothing like fresh ambition to unsettle the established order as Kidderminster Harriers found to their cost when they were crushed 3-0 by Heybridge Swifts in the outstanding upset of the third round of the FA Umbro Trophy on Saturday (Walter Gammie writes).

Steve Harding had only just made the jump from playing for Burnham Ramblers in the Essex Senior League to the Ics League premier division when he was thrust into action against Kidderminster, the Vauxhall Conference's second-placed club.

Harding, a young forward, duly laid on the first goal, in the 22nd minute, for Gary Caldron, the club's leading scorer, and as Heybridge feasted on wind-assisted punts in the second half, ripped in for a goal of his own to follow Caldron's second.

The other main casualties were Altrincham, who were defeated 1-0 at home by Bishop Auckland, of the UniBond League, in a match that was interrupted for 24 minutes when four police horses descended on the terraces after trouble among the visiting supporters.

Bishop Auckland won a stormy match with a penalty in the 59th minute by Nicky Peverell, with only nine men on the pitch, after the sending-off of Alan Gray and Lee Ellison.

Reed returns to a familiar problem

Simon Wilde sees a notorious referee award another controversial penalty

would have won and Reed being found hanging by his bootlaces in the referee's room, but the gods were forgiving and two goals in the last ten minutes gave Woking victory and the consensus was that Reed got the decision right — just.

"The referee was in a good position to give it," Killick said. "I was definitely inside the area. I was going away from goal and my touch would probably have taken

me out of a goalscoring position, but the contact and intent was there by the keeper." Television also suggested that Reed was lucky this time, just as it had suggested that he was unlucky three days earlier.

All told, Reed had a pretty good day. It began with Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, football's world governing body, confirming not only that the frailty of officials is all part of the game, but also



Segers exchanges opinions with Reed at Dorchester

that referees are "human beings" — which, in view of the many creatures, from magots upwards, to which he had been compared, must have come as welcome news to Reed.

He certainly looked human enough as he trotted out onto the pitch, short, stocky and balding. He was immediately assailed by ironic and bi-partisan booing, at which he smiled broadly. He remained in good humour throughout the game, even if some topics were out of bounds.

"I asked him if he felt more pressure giving this penalty than the one at Chelsea," Killick said. "He didn't see the funny side — but then I don't suppose he's got much to smile about at the moment."

The crowd, of course, spared him nothing. There were a few pointed asides, but most addressed familiar themes, such as his eyesight and his inability to organise a trip to a brewery. It must have been nice to be back at work.

Yet it would have been unnatural if he had not wanted the day to pass without incident. It was noticeable that, having issued more yellow and red cards than any referee this season, he declined to book one player and, after the game, ran to a waiting car — with police in place to prevent any repetition of the attack that he experienced in London — pleading that he was late for a referees' dinner in King's Lynn.

But for the penalty, he might have got away with it.

Cardiff give absent fans reason to cheer

Swansea City 0
Cardiff City 1

By Mel Webb

IT WOULD have been nicely appropriate on this St David's Day weekend if this game could have been celebrated by a cordial coming together of the football lovers of South Wales. Unfortunately, the supporters of Swansea City and Cardiff City have a marked tendency to knock large lumps off each other; the upshot was that the Ninian Park crowd were not invited to the party yesterday.

So what did they miss? Sadly, not a lot, aside from the obvious fact that their team won to move within a point of Swansea in the contest for a play-off place in the Nationwide League third division. To Cardiff went the spoils, but that apart, it was a dull old affair in a strange sort of one-way vacuum.

In an attempt to put an end to the troubled recent traditions of this match, the clubs had agreed that Cardiff supporters would be allowed to attend. Dénouement was the name of the game, until the police stepped in and put an end to such romantic notions.

Vigorous attempts were made to keep the marauders from 40 miles up the road at bay. They were largely successful, though a small but resourceful raiding party was detected and ejected. They did

not get their marching orders until the interval, however, by which time Cardiff had scored. It happened in the eighteenth minute, when Partridge hit the post with a shot from a narrow angle. The ball arrived at the feet of Howarth, who sidefooted it over the line from three yards.

The goal was greeted by a solid wall of silence, but the Swansea faithful were aroused 13 minutes later when Eckhardt handled in the penalty area under pressure from Torpey. Penney, Swansea's captain and leading scorer, tried to be cute with a carefully placed shot, but the ball went two yards wide.

Subsequent events would show that most of the meaningful football had been played by half-time, and even that was stretching the case to the point of charity. Swansea were shapeless, Cardiff not much better, but at least Kenny Hibbit, the Cardiff manager, could gain consolation from the fact that his team have two games in hand over their old rivals.

For Swansea, meanwhile, it was a fourth successive defeat. If Jan Moily, their player manager, is not getting a mite nervous, it is high time he did.

SWANSEA CITY (4-3-3): R. Fraystone — S. Jones, K. Walker, C. Edwards (sub: R. Casey, 85min), J. Ellis — D. Penney, G. Chappell (sub: J. Moily, 65), J. Collins — P. Brayford, S. Torpey, R. Appleby (sub: D. Thomas, 75).
CARDIFF CITY (4-4-2): A. Eddowes — L. Jarman, J. Eckhardt, G. Davies, A. Priddy (sub: J. Potts, 61) — J. Fowler, C. Middleton, J. Perry, S. Partridge — S. White (sub: C. Dale, 67), S. Howarth.
Referee: S. Wootton-Barnard.

SWIMMING: NATIONAL RECORD CONFIRMS PLACE IN PUBLIC AFFECTION FOR RETICENT OLYMPIC HEROINE

Smith sails through test of fans' devotion

FROM CRAIG LORD IN GALWAY

EVITA PERÓN would have been proud of Michelle Smith. She smiled, she waved, she touched hands and hearts and she provided those gathered here with an Irish record, her 24th since 1994, of 2min 01.38sec in the 200 metres freestyle. Her public adored her.

The triple Olympic champion could not have been made more welcome. She was given a private dressing-room — there was no star on the door — and all her exits were covered at the Leisureland International meeting. They even made her the first swim-

mer to undergo a random drug-test in competition in Ireland.

In private, though, Smith is more serious. She had her solicitor send a letter to say that she would not be accepting the award of life membership of the Irish Amateur Swimming Association (IASA) until the mole who leaked documents revealing that she had failed to show up for out-of-competition drug-tests had been rooted out.

Fina, the sport's international governing body, had warned Smith via the IASA, in 1995 and again in January this

year, that failure to provide correct details of her whereabouts for the purpose of drug-tests could result in sanction. She had been unavailable for "the first three-quarters of 1995" and on October 13 last year.

These are details that Smith, 27, is keen not to discuss. That much was evident at an on-off press conference at her first race in Ireland for two years. She started with the words: "First I would like to restrict questions to my swimming this weekend — if you don't mind."

Some did. Ulster TV, for example, which has long been putting together a documentary on Smith and her husband and coach, Erik de Bruin, the Dutch discus thrower who is serving a four-year suspension after a positive test in 1993. She referred their questions to her solicitor, Hugh Mohan, who has sent more than ten warning letters to the station in the past few weeks.

Mohan is a busy man. He acts as barrister to three national newspapers in Ireland and is representing several journalists in defamation actions being brought by Patrick Hickey, president of the Irish Olympic Committee.

In Mohan's absence, what Smith will say is that she will not compete at the world short-course championships



Smith raises her arm in triumph after setting a new Ireland mark in the 200 metres freestyle yesterday

in Gothenburg in April. It is unsure whether she will be ready to race at the European championships in Seville this summer — "I'm not the woman I was in Atlanta," she said — but intends to be at the world long-course championships in Perth in 1998.

Smith said that she sets her programme according to how her training is going. As matters stray beyond her

appearance here, de Bruin stabbed his pen at a note he had scribbled on a napkin, reminding Smith not to ignore the restriction she had imposed.

Such attitudes, and speculation about how Smith has achieved her success, are not helping the bank balance. Smith is on her third agent in a year after having failed to capitalise on her success in

Atlanta, where she won three gold medals. In contrast, Sonia O'Sullivan, the 5,000 metres world champion, but with nothing to show from the Olympic Games last year, has made £500,000 a year. Smith, having made famous the Aquablate swimsuit in Atlanta, is not even pictured in the new calendar from Speedo, the suit's manufacturer.

Celia Millane, of the IASA,

which is in the midst of a crisis over allegations of sexual misconduct against two former Olympic head coaches, said: "There are very difficult issues for us. They are serious issues. There are a lot of voluntary people here and we're not used to having to deal with the media. The likes of Michelle, with a legal adviser and an agent, are moving in a different world now."

Crabtree casts long shadow over his creator

BY BRIAN CLARKE

There is a common assumption that the best-selling angling book of all time is Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*. As assumptions go, it is not unreasonable. The *Compleat Angler*, published in 1653, has never been out of print and has spawned more than 400 editions.

The fact, though, may be different. If Walton's *Arctian* hymn really is the best-selling angling book ever, it can only be by a rod's breadth. *Mr Crabtree Goes Fishing*, the work that Bernard Venables, published in 1949, must run it close. Nobody knows how many Mr Crabtree's exploits have sold more than two million copies; and they have done that in just a handful of editions to just two generations. Angling has never seen anything like *Mr Crabtree* before — not only in its success but also in its style — and may not again. It seems right, therefore, to mark his creator's recent birthday. Venables is alive and well and still fishing in Wiltshire. A couple of weeks ago he passed 90.

Game anglers who have fished for nothing else may have missed out on the Crabtree magic, but few others who have fished fresh water will. Venables is a beguiling writer and a superb draftsman. He has used his skills separately, to great effect, over the years. In *Mr Crabtree*, he brought them seamlessly together — and cast a spell over his readers as easily as he casts the line.

The origins of Venables's work lie in a strip cartoon that he created for the *Daily Mirror* just after the Second World War. Mr Crabtree was the all-purpose angling dad; he had a son called Peter. Peter was exactly like a million other lads at the time: their adventures were an instant success. In no time, the strips and storylines were brought together, embellished and garnished with an evocative, linking text. At a stroke, in book form, the working-class and curiously classless duo moved out of their tabloid ghetto and into every kind of home.

Crabtree knew everything about everything. Young Peter asked the questions that, as lads, we all would have asked. Mr Crabtree, magically talking clearly with a pipe in his mouth while playing a heavy fish with one hand and reaching for his landing net with the other, explained. Image upon image, caption upon caption, cartoon bubble upon cartoon bubble, one was drawn down into a world of dreamy waters and great fishes.

Mr Crabtree fished us through the seasons: for pike in winter, for trout in spring, for bream, tench and carp in summer, for perch, roach and rudd in autumn. He never once failed to get the species he sought. He rarely failed to land a whopper. He rarely failed — he was very good at this — to slip in a little homily on nature or sportsmanship when the chance cropped up. One never failed to live a moment out with him — and to learn.

The observation and draftsmanship in the pictures, the knowledge and precision of the words, the fact that he showed one not only the angler's intent above water but also the behaviour of the tackle and the response of the fish below, involved young minds in artful angling in a

way that nobody had thought possible. For all that, for all the book's success and the reverence in which he is now held, it is not possible to talk to Venables without detecting an ambivalence towards the character that he has created. He loves Crabtree, but one suspects he would love him the more if only he would move over.

Everything that Venables has done since — and he has done more than most men would dream of doing — has been put in the shade by the man he created. A little recognition for those things would not have come amiss.

Venables has written 17 other books, including — improbably — one about tanks, one about open-boat whaling and one describing a journey down the Zambezi from its source.

He was co-founder of *Angling Times* in 1953 — and for years its editorial director. In 1963, he created *Creel*, a magazine as lovely as a damselfly though, sadly, as ephemeral because its costs were too heavy for the market. Since then, he has mostly freelanced — travelling, writing, making films and, closest to his heart of all, painting.

It is when Venables talks of his painting that his ambivalence towards Crabtree comes through. What few of his angling readers know is that Venables is in the front rank



Venables: beguiling

as an artist. Several of his paintings have been hung by the Royal Academy. He is a marvellous carver of wood and sculptor of stone. "I am hell-driven by my art," he once told me.

Evidence of all his gifts and obsessions adorn the tiny cottage that he and his wife rent from the council in a village not far from Salisbury. A council cottage is not where he would have chosen to spend his later years, but his life, like most lives, has had its bends and eddies and he earned nothing from Mr Crabtree because the *Mirror* retains copyright and offered him not a penny from the proceeds.

Even so, Venables exudes a peace with the world and a sense of his own place on the turning wheel of time that men decades younger would envy. He fishes when he can, paints as much as his eyesight will now allow — and writes about a Watsonian ideal lost to a harsher world and that angling must get back, he says, if it is to survive.

His home is as packed as his days, crammed as a tackle bag. Rods, reels, books, carvings, sculptures, watercolours and oils are all about. Venables lives in landscape that reflects his life's achievements — but it is Mr Crabtree's river that winds through it.

Mr Crabtree Goes Fishing, by Bernard Venables (Merlin Unwin Books, £19.95).

NETBALL

Structure of game faces overhaul

ACCORDING to Pauline Harrison, the national director of coaching at the All England Netball Association (AENA), the 50 delegates who attended the "Netball into the 21st Century Conference" in central London, might have been mistaken for "Trekkies".

"The message was clear — we must boldly go where no one has gone before," she said. "Our mission is to be No 1 in the world [England are ranked fourth], and to win more medals we must establish structures to support our existing talent and develop our next generation of world-class performers."

"Every day counts if we are to achieve our goal. All we need is confirmation and allocation of the promised [National Lottery] funding so that we can put our plans into action."

The AENA resolved to arrange "quality" international fixtures for England in future and will create a much-needed rest period in the sport's calendar to minimise the increasing problem of player "burn-out".

The AENA is also expected to ensure that important inter-county league matches are not scheduled on weekends before internationals.

Officials will draw up a recommended maximum number of matches for players, broken down into weekly, monthly and annual totals.

Twins continue to make imprint

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT



IN SCHOOLS

DOLLY the sheep was not present at the Newark Showground on Saturday, but, for those with a futuristic curiosity, it was possible to sample how it might feel to be surrounded by clones. Human cloning may still be in the hands of the scientists and politicians, but the nearest thing, identical twins, people born genetically the same as each other, continue to make their imprint on athletics.

The TSB English Schools cross-country championship offered a foretaste for the English national championships in Havant next Saturday, for which 23 pairs of female twins are entered. A national survey of 12 counties at Newark among 44 represented, revealed four sets of identical twins, including one fiery pair, the Partridges, from Suffolk, who agreed that they did not get on.

TALENTED sons have an unenviable task in trying to follow the sporting paths of successful fathers (John Goodbody writes). Ask Liam Botham.

However, little overawes Robert Barracough, an 18-year-old at Manchester Grammar School. In 1970, Richard, his father, won the British judo trials and national wrestling titles at free-style and Greco-Roman, a unique feat in the same year. Richard, who also played rugby union for Sale, went on

to compete at wrestling at the 1972 Olympic Games. Robert is similarly versatile. He plays scrum half for Lancashire schoolboys, is a British junior wrestling champion and, on Saturday, was the pre-eminent winner at the Independent Schools judo championships at High Wycombe.

He displayed a crisp throwing technique, which won his first three contests all inside 15 seconds. In the senior, under-85 kilogram final, Julian Mould, of Pangbourne, a

gold medal-winner the past two years, went into ground-work and Barracough deftly turned his opponent on his back and then clamped on an unbreakable hold. His father gave a faint smile.

Pangbourne took the team title for the fourth successive year. They train regularly at Pinewood, the home of Nicola Fairbrother, the 1992 Olympic silver medal-winner. Beatrice Wipperf, the teacher in charge, said: "They are just a lovely group. They have such marvellous spirit."

For siblings, the record surely went to Somerset, four pairs, but the real issue of the day, winning was shared by many counties. Six races produced individual title winners from six different counties. In the team competition, only Northumberland, with two victories, won more than one title.

Daniel Hyde, the senior boys' winner, is a classic example of small fish grown big. Hyde said that, travelling to the race, he had been looking forward to telling his story to reporters.

As a junior, Hyde won the Devon title and expected to win at the nationals. He "went off like a rocket" that year but finished 31st. "I told myself that I would come back one day and win," he said. He left it late before taking the big prize. After several misses, this was his last shot before leaving school.

The Porters, Jane and Juliet, aged 15, are the very opposite. According to David, their father, their running thrives on their getting on. They are progressing at twin turbo speed. Last year, as top-age juniors, Jane was 53rd, Juliet 25th. Here, as first-year intermediates, they were ninth and 41st.

The East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire junior girls' team would have been among the medals had Lindsay Curtis not developed stich halfway round. Fortunately, only one identical twin suffered the affliction. Nicola Curtis, with whom Lindsay had been running to halfway, led home the county team in 42nd place.

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HOCKEY

Teddington run ended by Reading

TEDDINGTON'S run of ten victories in the men's national league ended at Chiswick yesterday with a 4-3 defeat by Reading. The result leaves the race for the premier division championship wide open.

Reading fell behind twice, but their skilful use of the open spaces tipped the balance in their favour and, in the end, it was Teddington who fought furiously for survival. Lastett, Wallis and Conway scored for Teddington; Wyatt, Ashdown and Pearson (twice) for Reading.

Cannock could manage only a 3-3 draw at Surbiton, who saved the match with a goal in the 62nd minute by Sexton from a short corner. Elmist and Owen had scored the earlier goals for Surbiton, with Parnham scoring twice for Cannock and Mayer adding to the score.

Reading finished the day at the top of the table ahead of Teddington and Cannock and, with two matches still to be played, any one of these three clubs could win the title.

At the other end of the table, Havant defeated Hounslow 3-0, but still could not save themselves from relegation.

Despite beating Hightown 2-0 in the women's national league, Leicester are still bottom of the premier division, but they have at least closed the gap on five teams lying just above them. At the top of the table, Ipswich were held to a 3-3 draw by Clifton.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Cup Fifth Round

Coventry v Walsley (8.0)

UNION LEAGUE: Premier division

Enay v Galesley

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division

St Albans (7.45)

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third round

Walsley v Walsley (7.45)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

First division: Southampton v Arsenal

(Staplewood, Marchwood)

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier

division: Blackpool v Dorset (7.45)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague play-offs

Group A: Newcastle v Manchester (8.30)

Group B: Birmingham v Sheffield (7.30)

RACING: Newcastle (2.0), Towson (2.0), Wincanton (2.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Women's English national indoor

championship (at York)

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WEDNESDAY

RUGBY UNION

MOBBS MEMORIAL MATCH: East Midlands

v Barons (at Northampton, 8.0)

CLUB MATCH: Exeter v Cambridge

(at St Albans, 8.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION: Bramley v York (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Bundesliga League: Leipzig

v Newcastle (8.0), London v Crystal

Palace (8.0)

BOWLS: Women's English national indoor

championship (at York)

RACING: Walsley (2.0), Towson (2.0), Wincanton (2.0)

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BOWLS: Women's English national indoor

Why takeovers could be all the rage

THE New York Knicks basketball team and the New York Rangers ice hockey side are the unlikely focus of a \$10 billion corporate takeover battle between the giant Hilton hotel company and its rival, ITT. Hilton wants to win control of ITT's Sheraton hotel and casino chain, but, to persuade Wall Street to support its bid, Hilton has said that it will sell off the extremely valuable sporting franchises. ITT, in turn, has hinted that, if it remains independent, it will put the teams on the market and return that money to shareholders.

The Knicks are reckoned to be the most valuable basketball team in the United States — worth an estimated \$200 million — while the Rangers are valued at \$120 million, but it is the whole package that ITT has assembled that makes the teams so attractive to the market. ITT, which co-owns the teams with Cablevision, also controls their home venue — Madison Square Garden — and the MSGN cable sports

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



network that broadcasts the games. The two companies have effectively bought total control of indoor sports in New York for \$1 billion.

The success of this venture has not gone unnoticed. Comcast, the third largest franchised cable operator in the United States, recently paid \$500 million for a package including the Philadelphia 76ers basketball team, the Philadelphia Flyers ice hockey team and the 20,000-seat CoreStates Centre. Comcast is aiming to launch its own regional sports network next year with the two teams providing the bulk of its winter sports programming.

It is the absence of anti-monopoly rules surrounding sport in the United States that has made team franchises so attractive to big companies. Media moguls have been able to establish local sports monopolies and become rich on the profits.

The United States remains a good ten years ahead of the United Kingdom in its exploitation of the business potential of sport. To date, only a couple of half-hearted attempts have been made to integrate different sports teams in a single region. Loftus Road has combined Queens Park Rangers football team and Wasps rugby club in a single quoted company. Sir John Hall, meanwhile, still controls a majority of Newcastle United — which floats next month — and owns the rugby club, although it remains a separate company.

Integration has been held back in the United Kingdom because most sporting teams cannot sell their own television rights at the moment. Teams are also less vulnerable to

takeovers than in the United States, because they normally own their own grounds, ensuring that they have the financial support of a regular income stream. The ground also provides the fall-back of a valuable property asset, which has made the clubs a more attractive flotation prospect.

Pay-per-view televised sport, however, is going to radically change the dynamics of the business of British sport. The football clubs are expected to go down this road when the existing television contract expires in 2001, and other sports are more than likely to follow football's example.

A company such as Granada, which has already been linked with a bid for Manchester United, would find the idea of winning control of everything from the television rights to the catering at Old Trafford hard to resist. The day when British sport is also controlled by the big leisure and media companies may not be so far away.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Jennai Cox feels the pain of the competitors in a world championship described as a horrible experience

The sheer agony of going nowhere



Torture machine: Greg Searle, the British Olympic gold and bronze-medal oarsman, was among those competing in the world indoor-rowing championships. The majority had never been near a real rowing boat. This is their sport.

Fifteen hundred bodies bounce back and forth like a series of grand-father clock pendulums. The shoulder blades on 3,000 arms twitch as they pull back then release. Eyes water and teeth grind as fingers blister and every muscle burns. From all corners of the Earth, they had come to witlessly endure seven minutes of agony on what has become known among veterans as the torture machine.

For the sixteenth year, the mostly lean, mean and addicted to pain had trekked to the United States last month to compete in the world championships in Boston of a sport that scarcely two decades ago was no more than a winter training tool for two American Olympic oarsmen.

In the 25 years since the brothers, Dick and Peter Dreissgacker, conceived the indoor rowing machine, it has acquired a cult following of approximately 14,000 people in schools, the armed forces and professional sports in 50 countries from Belarus to Japan to Holland.

Greg Searle, 24, the Great Britain Olympic gold and bronze-medal oarsman, is among the 1,500 now attracted to the annual event, but the majority of the rowers, who fund the trip themselves, have never been near a real rowing boat. This is their sport.

Three days before the event, 150 of the 400 European competitors gather at the Boston Sheraton Hotel. From a smart second-floor conference suite comes the nonstop whirring of 24 Concept II rowing machines installed for additional training. Rarely does a minute pass without some competitor, whether aged 17 or 70, putting in a few extra strokes of practice. They know that they are going to need it.

At the halfway mark of each 2,000-metre race in an athletics hall at Boston's Roxbury Community College, the faces of the rowers begin to contort. Fatigue shows first, followed by anguish, and, with 500 metres to go, determination fights self-doubt and helplessness until sheer agony takes control for the last few strokes. To watch is to feel the pain, but

SPORT FOR ALL

the energy is strangely contagious.

Just as in conventional boat races, each competitor is accompanied by a cox who, as well as recording the time, offers a constant stream of encouragement. Because the "boats" are not moving, the crowd joins in and is heard for the duration of the race. "Keep it up, keep it strong, feel the burn, here we go, stay right with him, throw it up, crack it, power strokes, finish it," are typical supporter cries.

The greater the expressions of pain, the louder the screams that reach a crescendo above the noise of the rambling commentary, like the sound of the chanting of football supporters. On completing their race, many rowers collapse with groans of pain. For a few minutes they do not move, save for heavy breathing and a wipe of their sweating brows. Still with eyes screwed tight and slightly swaying, the winner then punches the air.

The fast-growing appeal of this fairly monotonous looking and obviously strenuous sport seems bewildering. Some evidence suggests that word has got around among women in American gyms that indoor rowing is the secret to achieving a firm and pert behind. To most, though, the Concept II is the best all-body workout and rowers take their sport very seriously. John Wilson, a former competitive rower and one of the championship organisers, said: "Some people measure their lives by the

times they can do on the machine. It means everything to them."

Having tried the machine for the first time three years ago as part of a weight-loss programme, Su Larcombe, 39, decided last April to train for the British championships in November. She put in six sessions a week training in three different fitness centres and in the end took the gold in the senior women's race in both the British and Boston events. "This competition is not like an ordinary race, where you can see the others in front of you," she said. "This is just between you and the monitor."

Attached to the machine in front of each rower, a cigar-box-size timer tells them their pace over 500 metres, the time it is taking and the distance travelled. Despite the installation of computer screens alongside each ergometer, which show rowers their position were this a real race on water, most remain hypnotised by the digital monitor. This is how many get through the race.

"The monitor means you cannot cheat yourself," Sean Morris, a six-foot, 53-year-old film maker, who lost three quarters of a stone in order to qualify for the veteran's lightweight race and so stand a better chance of winning a medal, said. "A lot of self-deception goes on when you are training because your mind says you are tired so should slow down, but the monitor says 'I know this is hurting, but actually you are going quite slowly'." A former Oxford rower, Morris says the indoor 2,000-metre race is as physically demanding as that on water. "It is a ridiculous sport, a horrible experience," he said. Few disagree.

Sarah Lauritzen, 28, from Denmark, was one of three lightweight women rowers whose best times were within two seconds of each other. This

was her first time competing in the indoor championships and she used every ounce of energy to finish in 6min 36sec. "For those last 500 metres, I did not know what to feel," she said after the race. "I thought, well, if I die, I die."

Beaten by a five-times German champion to fourth place, Searle nevertheless said the event was "an awesome competition to be in". Ten world records were set, a reflection of the degree of seriousness and level of competition that the championship now attracts. It is a good out-of-season training session for professional athletes and a haven for the American college talent scouts

trying to pull the best of the nation's sporting youth into rowing.

For the many keep-fit and dry-rowing enthusiasts who make up the greater part of the numbers, it is a satisfying challenge. Niels Hongard, an 83-year-old Dane, who took up rowing three months ago, was one of the many new faces, as was Vincent Sarich, a 62-year-old American who rowed 10,000 metres a day in training and took a silver in his first competitive race. He said he would be back next year, as will the other 1,499, and, judging by the heightened spirits of the 1997 championships, quite a few newcomers.



A "race" against time

EVENTS

There are now 35 leading indoor championships in Europe and 80 around the world. Great Britain hosts charity rowing and fitness-centre competitions. The indoor max triathlon includes swimming, stationary-bike cycling and rowing on Concept II. There is a Concept II Kids Club. Concept II website: <http://www.concept2.co.uk>, phone no: 0115 942 1942.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The success of this contract appeared to depend on the location of the ace of diamonds, but the declarer made a cost-nothing play that gave him a slight extra chance. It was reported to me by John Armstrong, the eminence grise of the North West.

Dealer South	Love all	IMPs
♠ A42 ♥ KJ763 ♦ 873 ♣ AQ	♠ N ♥ 85 ♦ 102 ♣ 87542	♠ J10863 ♥ 85 ♦ 102 ♣ 87542

S	W	N	E
1NT (12-14)	Pass	2D	Pass
2H	Pass	3NT	Pass
4H	All Pass		

Contract: Four Hearts by South

Lead: ten of clubs

North's response of Two Diamonds was a "transfer" bid, a common method over No-trump openings in the tournament world. It shows at least five hearts, so South is required to bid Two Hearts. Then, when North raised to 3NT, he completed the picture of his hand, indicating that he had a balanced game raise with five hearts.

Whether South should pass 3NT rather than bid Four Hearts is a much-discussed theoretical topic. He knows that his side has a 5-3 heart fit. If he passes 3NT, the opposition might be able to run the club suit. The argument for passing 3NT is that nine tricks are often easier than ten, as on this hand.

My policy is to pass on 4-3-3-3 hands, but to bid Four Hearts on hands with three or

more hearts in a 4-4-3-2 shape.

Dummy's queen of clubs held the first trick, and declarer then drew trumps. It seemed that the whole hand depended on East holding the ace of diamonds, but declarer found an extra chance. He cashed the ace of clubs, cashed two rounds of spades ending in hand and led the jack of clubs, discarding a spade from dummy when West played the king. In most cases, that would just be postponing the diamond play. Here, when West's shape turned out to be 2-3-5-3, West had no black card to exit with. So, he had to play a diamond, giving declarer his tenth trick.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Lords v Commons

This Wednesday the annual match between teams from the House of Lords and the House of Commons takes place at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, London. Included among the Lords line-up this year will be Lord Kilbracken, Lord Winston, Lord Rennell, the Marquess of Bath, Lord Drogheda and Lord Gaze. The House of Commons team includes Michael Stern, MP, Jeremy Hanley, MP, Gwilym Jones, MP, Bob Ainsworth, MP, David Wigley, MP, Nigel Griffiths, MP, Andrew Boden, MP and Phillip Oppenheim, MP.

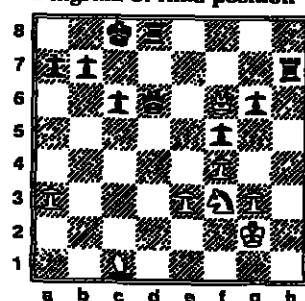
By and large, the Commons team has proved more successful, but last year Lord Winston, primarily known for his work on human fertility, won this incisive game against Bob Ainsworth, MP.

White: Bob Ainsworth, MP
Black: Lord Winston

Lords v Commons, 1996

Slav Defence	
1 d4	d5
2 c4	Nf6
3 Nc3	c6
4 e3	Bf5
5 Nf3	Nbd7
6 Be2	Oc7
7 O-O	O-O-O
8 Bd3	Bg4
9 Be2	h5
10 b4	a5
11 Bb2	dxc4
12 dxc4	Nxe5
13 Oc2	Nd3+
14 Bx3	Bx3
15 Qf5+	Rd7
16 Cxd3	Bxb4
17 Ne2	Ng4
18 g3	Rh7
19 a3	Bd6
20 Rd1	Ne5

Diagram of final position



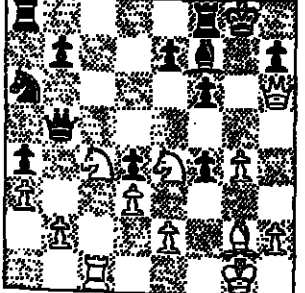
Top MP

The strongest chessplaying MP was undoubtedly Marmaduke Wyvill, who actually participated in the first international chess tournament — that held in London in 1851 to coincide with the Great Exhibition. In a knockout format, Wyvill actually surpassed the acknowledged English experts of the day, such as Howard Staunton and Elijah Williams. Although Wyvill lost in the final to Adolf Anderssen, the great German master, his second prize in such exalted company was truly remarkable.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Vladimir — Nesterov, Soviet Union, 1988. Although White is the exchange rook for knight behind on material, he has fine outposts for his pieces and has his queen situated dangerously close to the black king. How did he continue?



Solution on page 45

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

APOGAMY
a. Marriage with an alien
b. Turning the back on
c. Reproduction without sex

DEMIPENSION
a. A Royal Navy pensioner
b. Scholar at Merton
c. Bed, breakfast and meal

FLOPSY
a. The yellow poppy
b. A collapse
c. A rabbit
APROSEXIA
a. A cigarette
b. Inability to concentrate
c. Trans-sexuality

Answers on page 45

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THE FACTS

The world record for 2,000 metres on a Concept II rowing machine is 5min 39sec.

● A rower will complete approximately 200 strokes over a distance of 2,000 metres.

● The Concept II rowing machine provides an aerobic workout that uses every main muscle group. This makes it a time-efficient form of exercise. It is suitable for the super-fit as well as those who have not exercised for years.

● Because the rowing movement is non-jarring, the exercise is often used for rehabilitation and, because it uses air resistance, is ideal for any age.

● Rob Andrew, the rugby player, Damon Hill, the racing driver, and Graeme Le Saux, the footballer, regularly use the machine as part of their fitness routines.

● Indoor rowing can be taken up by people with mental and physical disabilities.

● Technology will soon enable the rowing machine's monitor to record information that can be downloaded onto a PC, so performance graphs and targets can be produced.

● Soon rowers around the world will be able to race each other through the Internet.

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS

THE TIMES

FREE previews of *The English Patient*

Plus a FREE CD from the soundtrack

Readers of *The Times* can get the hottest cinema ticket of the year FREE and enjoy a private screening of *The English Patient*, starring Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas.

We have a total of 25,000 tickets to give away for the exclusive screenings on Saturday, March 8 — the week before it opens in the UK. And there are 115 cinemas nationwide to choose from.

The blockbuster, nominated for 12 Oscars, is directed and scripted by Anthony Minghella (of *Truly, Madly, Deeply* fame) and is distributed by Buena Vista. Based on the novel by Michael Ondaatje which won the Booker Prize in 1992, *The English Patient* is an epic film of adventure, intrigue, betrayal and love about four strangers whose diverse lives become inextricably connected.

You can also get a FREE compilation CD featuring four tracks from the soundtrack of the film. It includes extracts from the audio book of Michael Ondaatje's novel, read by Ralph Fiennes. (See below for details.)

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE TICKET

Collect the four FREE preview tokens published this week (token 1 appears below, right) and attach them to the special voucher which will appear on Thursday. To get your ticket, present the voucher and tokens at one of the cinemas listed on this page between 5pm Thursday, March 6 and the close of business on Friday, March 7. Each voucher, with four tokens attached, entitles you to one FREE ticket. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The screenings take place in the afternoon on Saturday March 8. See the list of cinemas, right.



Love discovered and betrayed: clockwise from top, Ralph Fiennes; Fiennes in a romantic embrace with Kristin Scott Thomas; and Juliette Binoche

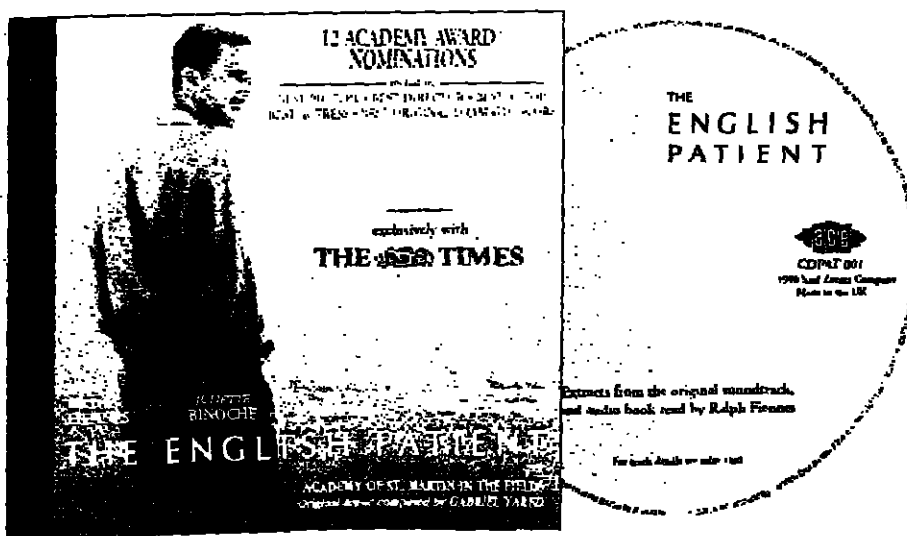
A FREE sampler CD

Readers are offered a FREE sampler CD featuring four tracks from *The English Patient*. The original soundtrack has been nominated for an Academy Award and recently won the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score. The four tracks are *The English Patient*, *Rupert Bear*, *Convento Di Sant' Anna* and *As Far as Florence*.

Gabriel Yared composed the film's score, performed here by the Academy of St Martin in the Field's and featuring pianist John Constable, vocalist Márta Sebestyén and conductor Harry Rabinowitz.

The compilation CD is interspersed with extracts from the MacMillan audio book of *The English Patient*, which was abridged by Michael Ondaatje himself.

The extracts are read by Ralph Fiennes.



HOW TO GET YOUR FREE CD

Collect four out of the six free CD tokens appearing in *The Times* this week. Token 1 appears left. Send your four tokens, together with a 50p stamp and the application form which will appear on Thursday March 6, 1997.

THE TIMES
THE ENGLISH
PATIENT
FREE CD
TOKEN 1

ODEON Aberdeen, Justice Mill Lane; Ayr, Burns Statue Square; Barking, Longbridge Rd; Barnet, Gt North Rd; Birmingham, New St; Bournemouth, Westover Rd; Brighton, West St; Bromborough, Wirral Leisure Park; Bromley, 242 High St; Cardiff Capital, Station Terrace; Chelmsford, Baddow Rd; Cheltenham, Winchcombe St; Chester, Northgate St; Colchester, Crouch St; Coventry, Jordan Well; Dundee, The Stack Leisure Park; Edinburgh, Clerk St; Exeter, Sidwell St; Glasgow Quay, Paisley Rd; Glasgow, Renfield St; Guildford, Epsom Rd; Harrogate, East Parade; Hemel Hempstead, Leisure World; Hull, Kingston St; Ilford, Chants Hill; Ipswich, St Margarets St; Jersey, Bath St; St Helier, Leeds, The Headrow; Leicester, Queen St; Lincoln, Valentine Rd; Liverpool, London Rd; LONDON: Holloway, Holloway Rd; Islington; Kensington, High Street; Marble Arch; Edgware Rd; Richmond Studio, Red Lion St; Streatham, 47-49 High Rd; Swiss Cottage, Finchley Rd; Wimbledon, The Broadway; Romford, Mercury Gardens; Manchester, Oxford St; Middlesbrough, Corporation Rd; Newcastle, Pilgrim St; Nottingham, Angel Row; Portsmouth, London Rd, North End; Plymouth, Darry's Cross; Salisbury, New Canal; Sheffield, Arundel Gate; Southend, Victoria Circus, The Broadway, London Rd; Stoke on Trent, Etruria Rd; Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham Rd; Taunton, Herongate, Riverside; Weston-Super-Mare, The Centre; Worcester, Foregate St. (Please check times with cinemas using Talking Pages 0800 600 900).

WARNER VILLAGE Basingstoke, Leisure Park, Churchill Way; Bury, Pilsworth Rd; Cambridge, Grafton Centre; Dagenham, Goresbrook Fields; Doncaster, Leisure Park, Bawtry Rd; Harrow, St George's Centre, St Anne's Rd; Leicester, Meridian Leisure Park; London: Acton, Royale Leisure Park; Western Ave; Croydon, Purley Way; Finchley, Gt North Leisure Park, Chaplin Sq; West End, Leicester Square; Newcastle, New Bridge St; Preston, London Way, Walton-Le-Dale; Sheffield, Meadowhall Centre; Thurrock, Lakeside Shopping Centre; Watford, Woodside Leisure Park, Garston; York, Stirling Rd, Clifton Moor. (All Warner shows at 3.00pm)

UA CINEMAS Bayswater, Whiteleys; Blanchardstown, New Centre, Dublin; Bracknell, Skimped Hill Lane; Clydebank, Britannia Way; Coolock, Malahide Rd, Dublin; Derby, Mansfield Rd; Gateshead, Metro Centre; Hatfield, Comet Way; Hull, St Andrews Quay; Milton Keynes, Midsummer Blvd; Poole, Mannings Heath; Dudley, Brierley Hill; East Kilbride, Rothsay St; Edinburgh, Newcraig Rd; Edmonton, Picketts Lock Lane; Portsmouth, Portway, Cosham; Preston, Ashton on Ribbles; Sheffield, Crystal Peaks; Solihull, Highlands Rd; Sutton, St Nicholas Way; Swansea, Quay Parade; Tallaght, Old Blessington Rd, Dublin; Tamworth, Boleridge St; Telford, Foregate, Town centre; Warrington, Cromwell Ave; Wycombe, Crest Rd; West Thurrock, Lakeside Retail Park. (All UCI shows at 3.30pm)

SHOWCASE Birmingham, Kingsbury Rd, Erdington; Bristol, St Phillips Causeway; Coventry, Gielgud Way, Wasgrave; Derby, Ormston Park Rd; Glasgow East, Bargeddie, Ballieston; Leeds, Birstall, Nr Batley; Liverpool, Norris Green; Manchester, Belle Vue; Nottingham, Redfield Way, Lenton; Peterborough, Mallory Rd; Boongate; Reading, Lodon Bridge, Reading Rd; Stockton, Teeside Leisure Pk; Walsall, Bentley Mill Way. (All Showcase previews begin at 3.30pm.)

INDEPENDENTS Cineworld Stevenage; Cineworld Wakefield; Moviehouse Belfast, Yorkgate; Robins Durham; Robins Newbury. (All previews at the Independents begin at 3pm except in Belfast where it starts at 3.30pm.)

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CHANGING TIMES

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Good odds for profit leap at Ladbroke

LADBROKE GROUP: The secret of making money out of gambling is knowing how to call the odds. It is not always that simple, as Ladbroke has found to its cost in previous years. Full-year figures on Thursday are expected to show a useful increase in pre-tax profit from £121.3 million to £160 million.

There is no shortage of momentum in its two main divisions, gaming and hotels, where it is looking to expand its interests through acquisitions and link-ups. Brokers will no doubt be wanting to glean further information about Peter George, chief executive, about the proposed get-together with Hilton Hotels Corporation.

Earnings growth is likely to be up almost 40 per cent at 10.3p, but the increase in the payout will probably be on the conservative side, with a 3 per cent rise from 6p to 6.15p.

HSBC HOLDINGS: Wrapping up the bank reporting season, HSBC, which owns Midland Bank, is today expected to unveil pre-tax profits of about £4.5 billion against £3.67 billion last time. With a market capitalisation of more than £38 billion, HSBC dwarfs its rivals, with the nearest, Lloyds TSB, weighing in with a value of £24 billion. HSBC, like Standard Chartered, its much smaller competitor, derives more than half its profit from the Asian-Pacific markets. After the problems that Barclays experienced last week with a share buyback when £100 million was spent rather than the £300 million that was planned, HSBC is not expected to announce a similar scheme to enhance shareholder value, preferring instead to lift the dividend.

GLAXO WELLCOME: Full-year figures on Thursday should reflect the benefits of restructuring during 1996 after the acquisition of Wellcome by Glaxo in 1995. Pre-tax profits of the world's biggest drug manufacturer are expected to have grown 20 per cent from £2.49 billion to about £3 billion, with earnings growing 16 per cent to 57.3p a share. The group's portfolio of new drugs should provide an £800 million boost to overall group sales of £8.4 billion. These include the respiratory treatments Serevent, Flovent, Floxotide and

Floase, and the antivirals Epivir and Retrovir. Meanwhile, Zantac, the group's old favourite, is still doing better than expected, with a 20 per cent drop forecast in 1996, after going off-patent. It still accounts for about 21 per cent of overall sales.

Shareholders should be rewarded with a 17 per cent increase in the dividend to 35p.

BAT INDUSTRIES: Litigation in the US is likely to cast a shadow over full-year figures on Wednesday. A total of ten jury trials have been pencilled in for 1997, unless there is a settlement. Final profits of £2.79 billion have been forecast by NatWest Securities, compared with £2.66 billion last time, a rise of 5 per cent. Earnings should be 7 per cent higher at 51.5p a share.

Trading in the tobacco division will have been difficult, with profits in the US, which accounts for 34 per cent of the total, struggling to make headway. Any improvement in profitability overall will have been achieved in countries such as China. The group is struggling to hold on to market share in Europe. If recent new business figures released by Allied Dunbar are any guide, results from BAT's financial services division may make disappointing reading. The 19 per cent increase in 1996 was below the sector average.

Eagle Star should benefit from capital gains, although brokers will want to know more about provisions for pollution and asbestos.

BTR: These are the first figures since the group unveiled its strategy of disposals and, as such, will be watched with more interest than usual. It is unlikely that changes already made will have any impact on the results for 1996. The real benefit will come through in the current financial year.

The trading update in December did little to throw fresh light on the business, but brokers are still braced for a downturn in profitability. A figure of about £1.2 billion is being forecast when full-year figures are revealed on Thursday. That compares with the previous year's £1.4 billion, while earnings per share are likely to have fallen from 22.8p to 20.8p. Shareholders will also have to bite the bullet,



Peter George can expect to be asked if he intends to make a play for Capital, the casino operator

with the final payout cut from 14.7p to 9.6p, a drop of 35 per cent.

CADBURY SCHWEPES: The disposal of CCSB for £622 million has been completed, but its performance last year should provide a boost to figures on Wednesday. Brokers expect a contribution of £115 million-plus, stretching the full-year pre-tax figure to £585 million, compared with £512 million. Earnings are expected to grow

from 16p to 17.1p. Now the group must decide on the best course of action if it intends to take on Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola on their home ground. Soft drinks sales in Europe have been dull. Sales of chocolate will have improved, but margins at Trebor Bassett have deteriorated as trading conditions improved. The dividend should increase by 7 per cent to 17.1p.

GKN: The group takes time off on

Thursday from the problems of litigation in the US to unveil full-year figures. The automotive markets in both Europe and the US remain flat and teething troubles at Westland regarding the EH101 will cloud the picture.

This apart, pre-tax profits are expected to have grown in 1996 from £328 million to £366 million, with earnings better by 13 per cent to 64.6p. There is scope for a 3p increase in the payout to 27p.

ROLLS-ROYCE: The recent rejuvenation of the aerospace industry will be reflected in full-year figures on Thursday. Brokers have pencilled in a final outcome of £221 million, against £143 million last time, while earnings growth will have soared 43 per cent to 11.3p.

The market for spare parts always provides a greater boost to profits than the engines themselves and the spare parts market has improved. Combined with a lower spend on research and development in the wake of the Trent engine, this should provide much of the impetus for future growth.

ARJO WIGGINS APPLETON: Tough trading conditions and unfavourable currency movements are likely to show profits almost halved when full-year figures are unveiled on Thursday. This will more than offset any benefits achieved through restructuring.

NatWest is looking for £120 million, against £206 million last time, with earnings crumbling from 17.3p to 8.5p. The final payout may be pegged at 7.5p, although the cover is starting to look thin. Comments from competitors suggest that trading remains difficult, with price rises being resisted.

BICC: The group has already highlighted difficult trading conditions and margin pressure at Balfour Beatty. Despite this, growth at its optical cable division has been strong and the recovery in the US is progressing at an encouraging rate. Full-year pre-tax profits up from £109 million to £130 million, with earnings 18 per cent higher at 15p. Losses at Balfour Beatty are expected to reach £8 million.

ABP: A better performance is expected from Associated British Ports when the group unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. These are expected to show pre-tax profits up 9 per cent from £88.2 million to £96 million, with earnings growth of 8 per cent at 19p. The group will have benefited from the growing economy and continued investment in existing facilities. A 15 per cent increase in the net dividend to 7.5p seems to be on the cards although brokers are not ruling out the possibility of a

Labour government levying a windfall tax against future profits.

HAYS: The fast-growing logistics group shows few signs of losing momentum as half-year figures today will show. Pre-tax profits should be 16 per cent higher at £70.5 million, although this figure will not include a £7.5 million charge relating to its abortive bid for Christian Salvesen. The commercial division will have enjoyed another strong performance, but the main driving force will come from the personnel division, which accounts for 30 per cent of group profits. Earnings will have risen 15 per cent to 11.8p and shareholders will be rewarded with a similar increase in the net payout to 3p.

GENERAL ACCIDENT: Another profits downturn is expected tomorrow when General Accident extends the dividend season for the composite insurers. Final net profits are likely to have fallen from £436 million to £385 million. But there should be scope for an increase in the payout from 31p to 33p. The group has been raising premiums aggressively in this country, but any benefit from this will be offset by losses in the US from bad weather claims.

ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE: There will be keen interest in full-year figures on Thursday from the newly merged business. Like General Accident, there is expected to be a decline in profitability, from £911 million to £834 million. The group has already forecast cost savings of £175 million a year and a net payout of 19p. The comparative figure would be 16.4p.

COOKSON GROUP: Brokers have steadily lowered their forecasts in recent months, mainly because of a poor performance by the group's electronic materials business. A further decline in profitability seems to have occurred during the last quarter, as full-year figures on Thursday will show. Pre-tax profits estimates are now pitched at £175 million, compared with £181 million last time. There seems little scope for recovery in the medium term, but there should still be room for an increase in the dividend from 8p to 8.8p.

Markets keep wary eye on both sides of Atlantic

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

There are a number of points of interest for the financial markets this week, including Wednesday's British monthly monetary meeting, widely expected to leave base rates unchanged, more Humphrey Hawkins testimony from Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, and the European Union's publication of new harmonised inflation rates.

The British week begins with the latest purchasing managers' survey, which gives the first snapshot of February manufacturing activity. There are also February figures for M0 money supply which, according to the market consensus compiled by MMS International, is expected to have grown 0.5 per cent, leaving its annual growth rate at 7 per cent against 7.4 per cent in

January. This coincides with a January consumer credit figures. Tomorrow sees the latest house price index from the Halifax Building Society and official reserves. Wednesday's monetary meeting is followed on Thursday by the CBI's distributive trades survey.

Markets will also be tracking events in America, where Mr Greenspan continues his testimony on the economy. Crucial figures come on Friday with February's employment report. The past two sets of figures have shown the non-farm payroll growing by more than 250,000 in each month and the markets will be particularly sensitive to

news of another large rise, given Mr Greenspan's warning that the Fed is on interest rate alert. In this context, hourly earnings data will be of key interest.

In Germany there is a Bundesbank council meeting on Thursday and figures expected on unemployment, production and fourth-quarter gross domestic product. There is particular uncertainty over the jobs data after January's huge 160,000 rise in unemployment, which triggered great uncertainty about whether Germany can meet the Maastricht treaty deficit criteria. On Friday, the EU's new harmonised inflation rates will be scrutinised to see who is likely to meet Maastricht's inflation criteria.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Rolls-Royce, Williams Holdings; Hold Royal & Sun Alliance. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Speculative Buy Wiggins Group, Hicking Pentecost, Eve Group. **Independent on Sunday:** Buy Ewart. **The Mail on**

Sunday: Buy McCarthy & Stone, Standard Chartered; Sell Mirror Group, Wyndeham Press, Toy Options. **The Observer:** Buy Abbey National, British Aerospace. **Sunday Business:** Buy Penna.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells	
Australia \$	2.18	2.02	Netherlands Gld	3.215	2.985
Austria Sch	20.18	18.86	New Zealand \$	2.49	2.27
Belgium Fr	59.17	54.87	Norway Kr	11.41	10.61
Canada \$	2.318	2.158	Portugal Esc	265.00	266.50
Cyprus Cyp£	0.849	0.794	S Africa Rd	7.81	7.61
Denmark Kr	10.97	10.17	Spain Ptas	242.50	228.50
Finland Mk	8.70	8.05	Sweden Kr	12.72	11.92
France Fr	9.80	8.95	Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.39
Germany Dm	2.88	2.67	Turkey Lira	200000	192000
Greece Dr	445	419	USA \$	1.715	1.585
Hong Kong \$	13.15	12.15			
Iceland	120	100			
Ireland Pf	1.08	1.00			
Israel Shk	5.70	5.05			
Italy Lira	2848	2673			
Japan Yen	209.10	193.10			
Malta	0.856	0.801			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading or Friday.

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6290 (+0.0099)
German mark 2.7494 (+0.0241)
Exchange index 98.3 (+1.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2847.5 (-17.0)
FTSE 100 4308.3 (-28.5)
New York Dow Jones 6877.74 (-53.88)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 18557.00 (-477.54)

MITSUBISHI INTRODUCE THE NEW APRICOT FT1200 SERVER

SPEC FOR SPEC, POUND FOR POUND, NOTHING COMES CLOSE.

0800 212 422

- Intel 200MHz Pentium®Pro Processor
- 32Mb ECC Memory
- 2Gb UltraWide SCSI disk
- 3C900 PCI Ethernet card
- 8 speed CD-ROM drive
- Integrated System Management
- Four Internal dedicated 3.5" fixed disk drive bays
- Manufacturer's RAID option†
- UPS option†
- Lockable fixed disks & Exchangeable areas
- PCI Bus
- USB

£1,999 (£2,348.83 inc VAT)



If ever there was a demonstration of the sheer technological might of Mitsubishi, it's the new Apricot FT1200 server. Because nothing can touch it for overall specification at - or anywhere near - the price.

In the first place, because the Apricot FT1200 boasts Intel's 200MHz Pentium Pro processor.

In the second place, because the Apricot FT1200 offers the kind of performance and security features normally found in high-level servers for the price of some desktops.

Like ultra-wide SCSI. Like lockable fixed disks. Like the ability to spread data across a number of hard drives or even configure one disk as a "hot spare" to automatically take over from a failed disk.

In fact, spec for spec the FT1200 trounces the "equivalent" models from Compaq, Dell, HP or IBM.

Which, when you think about it, doesn't make them very "equivalent".

CALL NOW FOR AN INFORMATION PACK

MITSUBISHI

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apricot

Capitalisation, week's change

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51	536.70	Lantern Cable	37	2.6	51.1	1.0
52	12.10	Blackfield Pk	38	3.3	54.6	1.0
53	615.20	Metals Int	41	1.0	47.7	1.7
54	562.10	Amendean Corp	42	4.0	39.2	2.3
55	544.40	Johnson & Cox	43	1.0	48.0	1.0
56	102.20	Harbors	44	2.4	23.3	3.5
	11.50	Power Locust	45	1.7	42.5	3.5
	29.10	Quonsetcranch				
	57.00	Quonsetcranch				
	3,567.00	Black Sky	419	17.5	32	320

57	1,200	Amendean Corp	50	1.0	48.0	1.0
58	1,200	Amendean Corp	51	1.0	48.0	1.0
59	1,200	Amendean Corp	52	1.0	48.0	1.0
60	1,200	Amendean Corp	53	1.0	48.0	1.0
61	1,200	Amendean Corp	54	1.0	48.0	1.0
62	1,200	Amendean Corp	55	1.0	48.0	1.0
63	1,200	Amendean Corp	56	1.0	48.0	1.0
64	1,200	Amendean Corp	57	1.0	48.0	1.0
65	1,200	Amendean Corp	58	1.0	48.0	1.0
66	1,200	Amendean Corp	59	1.0	48.0	1.0
67	1,200	Amendean Corp	60	1.0	48.0	1.0
68	1,200	Amendean Corp	61	1.0	48.0	1.0
69	1,200	Amendean Corp	62	1.0	48.0	1.0
70	1,200	Amendean Corp	63	1.0	48.0	1.0
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72	1,200	Amendean Corp	65	1.0	48.0	1.0
73	1,200	Amendean Corp	66	1.0	48.0	1.0
74	1,200	Amendean Corp	67	1.0	48.0	1.0
75	1,200	Amendean Corp	68	1.0	48.0	1.0
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86	1,200	Amendean Corp	79	1.0	48.0	1.0
87	1,200	Amendean Corp	80	1.0	48.0	1.0
88	1,200	Amendean Corp	81	1.0	48.0	1.0
89	1,200	Amendean Corp	82	1.0	48.0	1.0
90	1,200	Amendean Corp	83	1.0	48.0	1.0
91	1,200	Amendean Corp	84	1.0	48.0	1.0
92	1,200	Amendean Corp	85	1.0	48.0	1.0
93	1,200	Amendean Corp	86	1.0	48.0	1.0
94	1,200	Amendean Corp	87	1.0	48.0	1.0
95	1,200	Amendean Corp	88	1.0	48.0	1.0
96	1,200	Amendean Corp	89	1.0	48.0	1.0
97	1,200	Amendean Corp	90	1.0	48.0	1.0
98	1,200	Amendean Corp	91	1.0	48.0	1.0
99	1,200	Amendean Corp	92	1.0	48.0	1.0
100	1,200	Amendean Corp	93	1.0	48.0	1.0

Earning

OIL & GAS			
175.90 Arabi Crude	135	4	0.9
7.85 Alaskan Ref ¹	2		
40.00 Asia Crd & Gas	3		
10.00 Brent Ref	3		
10.00 Brk & Bm	127.5	3	1.8
2.544000 Brk & Bm	135	3	11.2
26.514.70 Brk & Bm (discount)	67.95	4	3.6
3.00 Bax Refineries	10.00	11	4.2
2.107.00 Barents Coast	54.75		
9.00 Canm Crude	2.00		
8.00 Canm Crude	68.25		
3.000.00 Cypre Ref	115		1.6
34.00 Cypre Ref	17.5		
1.000.00 D. Gas	17.5		
107.00 Dugan Oil	2		1.2
9.00 Ecto Oil & G	20		
10.00 Ecto Crude	62	13	3.2
15.00 Ecto	20		
30.00 Hany Oil	20.95	0	0.5
18.50 Ind Fuel & Sap	8		
2.00 Ind Oil & Gas	88		
2.3320.00 LUSMO	2415	1	0.8
3.00 Loma Ref	8		
10.00 Loma Ref	8		2.4
17.651.00 North Hady	307.95	264.5	1.8
8.00 Conoco	10		
36.00 Oil Search	12		2.4

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	%	6/98	6/08						
%	-	10.49	8.89	LONGS (over 15 years)					
%	-	8.65	8.89						
%	-	14.22	6.13						
%	-	9.48	6.30	4,750	Tenn 6/45-2010	85%	-	%	6.96
%	-	7.19	6.20	3,073	Qns 6/45-2011	113%	-1%	%	7.91
%	-	12.80	6.65	1,000	Tenn 6/45-2012	114%	-1%	%	7.91
%	-	13.10	6.54	1,000	Tenn 5/45-2006-12	82%	-	%	6.47
%	-	11.05	6.56	6,100	Tenn 6/45-2013	100%	-1%	%	7.61
%	-	9.10	6.56	800	Tenn 6/45-2013-15	85%	-	%	5.80
%	-	11.08	6.86	800	Tenn 6/45-2013-15	100%	-1%	%	7.67
%	-	9.75	6.87	1,310	Tenn 6/45-2013-15	113%	-1%	%	7.73
%	-	9.45	6.77	2,250	Tenn 6/45-2017	118%	-1%	%	7.73
%	-	9.45	6.77	5,000	Tenn 6/45-2017	113%	-1%	%	7.51
%	-	8.51	6.82						
%	-	7.51	6.82						
%	-	8.72	6.65	UNDATED					
%	-	11.81	6.88						
%	-	9.06	6.94						
%	-	7.00	6.95	1,380	Wt 10 7%	40%	-	%	7.46
%	-			475	Tenn 2/5%	100%	-	%	7.92
%	-			308	Canada 4%	51%	-	%	7.67
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 10%									
%	-	8.71	7.07						
%	-	7.85	7.07	880	Tenn 6/45-1990	114%	-	%	7.92
%	-	8.72	7.12	2,130	Tenn 6/25-2001	100%	-	%	2.51
%	-	9.94	6.96	2,300	Tenn 6/25-2003	100%	-	%	2.17
%	-								

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Helping hand with tax self-assessment

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

CRITICS of self-assessment claim that it is just a way to privatise income tax. Geoffrey Adams is trying to prove it.

A former Inland Revenue special investigator, Mr Adams is building a network of private tax advisers who will provide a basic service for simple tax returns costing only £60 (including VAT), with a menu of add-on charges for more complicated "extras".

The British Taxpayers Association (BTA), the vehicle Mr Adams joined in 1990, is a tax advice firm set up in 1919, originally for First World War veterans, with a euphonious name that company registrars would no longer allow.

Mr Adams and Alan Richardson, his accountant chairman, have now transmogrified this to the equivalent of a franchise operation, marketing a network of vetted tax advisers using standard tax computer software.

The network of associates tops 100, overwhelmingly firms of chartered accountants. Many are members of the linked CharterGroup Partnership.

British Taxpayers Association Self Assessment plc, the new holding company, is now trying to raise £1 million from investors to fund an advertising campaign aimed at more than four million people who will face self-assessment but do not have tax advisers.

Ruegg Ingram is nominated

adviser. The shares will not be officially quoted but could be traded on the unregulated Ofex market.

Potential customers are mainly employees on PAYE and retired people who fear the unknown cost of hiring a conventional tax accountant. Advertising will start with the self-assessment regime in April but will build up as panic grows before successive tax deadlines in September and January.

Associates will pay 20 per cent of income brought in by BTA to the company. Mr Adams hopes for profits of more than £500,000 in 1998 and £1.4 million in 1999 if the network can win an initial 78,000 customers, rising to a 15 per cent share of a market reckoned to top one million taxpayers anxious to avoid being one of the 8,000 a year to be targeted for a full tax investigation.

Potential rivals include high street banks as well as American firms used to self-assessment. But Mr Adams argues that the Taxpayers Association name scores well, as does the idea of a personal service from regulated professionals at a fixed fee. The scheme will only work, however, if customers maintain their own records for the advisers to process. Inquirers will, therefore, receive a helpful folder with instructions to put in anything that could attract tax or allowances.



Alan Richardson, left, and Geoffrey Adams

Gavin Lumsden looks at pensions reform

Warning on compulsory saving

NATWEST has added its voice to warnings that Britain faces a serious social problem in the next century unless the Government forces people to pay for their own pensions.

Last year, NatWest Life, the bank's insurance side, commissioned four experts, including Patrick Minford, professor of applied economics at the University of Liverpool, to look at pensions reform. Entitled *A changing nation: retirement provision in the 21st century*, the report, published tomorrow, provides evidence of a country whose increasingly aged and frail population cannot or will not plan for retirement.

In 1991, there were 8.9 million pensioners — and this will rise to 13.5 million by 2030. Within this, the number of those aged over 75 is expected to almost double to 7.9 million, with the over-85s growing from a million to 2.8 million.

At the same time, however, the value of the state pension is shrinking. Since its link with earnings was cut in the 1980s it has slipped from

representing 20 per cent of average male earnings to 16 per cent today. By the middle of the next century it is predicted to be just 8 per cent.

Even worse, an army of people (currently three million and growing) have no pension cover and will have to fall back on welfare payments. Even those in occupational schemes are underfunded: only 20 per cent of employees can expect to get more than half of their salary when they retire.

The report's authors — Professor Minford, George Yarwood of Hertford College, Oxford, Robin Birch, chairman of Age Concern England, and Lord Taverne, QC — conclude that the State is broke and must institute a high degree of financial self-reliance. However, they are split on the state pension's future.

Lord Taverne and Robin Birch believe it should be retained as a safety net, while the two economists, Professor Minford and Professor Yarwood, say it discourages saving and should be scrapped.

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*Some benefits are subject to a qualifying period

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Screen debut lifts cash-raising over £1bn

SCREEN, a provider of technology to security companies, joins the Alternative Investment Market today, taking the total money raised on the junior exchange above the £1 billion mark.

Screen is raising £1.82 million which it will use to fund working capital and fund possible acquisitions.

Its shares are being placed at 3p, valuing the company at £6 million.

Longbridge International, the headhunter specialising in finding top lawyers, will be valued at £3.54 million when it joins on April 18. It will be 70 per cent owned by Frank Varela, chairman, who founded the company

nine years ago. Mr Varela, 34, will become a paper millionaire with a holding worth £2.5 million.

In spite of the new money provided by AIM investors, only 26 per cent of venture capitalists consider the junior exchange a serious competitor, according to a survey from Levy Gec, the chartered

accountants. The figure has grown from 16 per cent in the last survey and AIM is still seen as a larger threat than Easdaq, the Pan-European market for high-growth companies, which is rated by only 10 per cent of venture capitalists.

FRASER NELSON

1996/97	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price pence	Wtdy +/-	Yld %	P/E	1996/97	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price pence	Wtdy +/-	Yld %	P/E
150	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117	150	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117
151	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117	151	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117
152	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117	152	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117
153	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117	153	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117
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186	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117	186	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117
187	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117	187	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117
188	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117	188	117	117	11.90	117	117	117	117
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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charity Commission for England and Wales has received an application for the registration of the following charity:

NAME: THE CHARITY COMMISSION

CHARITY NO: 11111111

CHARITY NO: 11111111

CHARITY NO: 11111111

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3. OTHER ISSUES

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1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

Sterling's strength to hinder industry

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE strength of sterling will make life difficult for British manufacturers over the next two years, threatening both exports and investment, according to the latest outlook from Oxford Economic Forecasting.

Manufacturing is expected to grow only 2.25 per cent this year compared with growth in the economy as a whole — powered by consumer spending and services — of 3.25 per cent.

Investment will continue to be disappointing, Oxford notes that most of the factors pointing to a strong recovery in investment have been around for a while with no obvious impact, and that the stronger exchange rate will discourage investment both by reducing capacity utilisation and by hitting corporate profits.

The forecaster sees a worse situation in 1998 when overall economic growth is expected to fall to just under 2 per cent as sterling's strength takes its toll of exports, and post-election increases in interest rates start to bite. Industrial production is forecast to expand only 0.5 per cent next year.

Oxford is far more pessimistic on investment than the Government which, in its Budget forecasts in November, pencilled in investment growth of 6.25 per cent for this year. Oxford believes that investment will grow 4.1 per cent in 1997.

It noted that, since the trough in business investment in late 1993, it has risen 14 per cent. In the comparable period of recovery from the 1980-81 recession, business investment rose more than 25 per cent. Manufacturing investment has risen 13 per cent over the recovery so far

compared with more than 35 per cent in the upswing in the early 1980s.

Oxford said that, although it is too soon to see an impact, sterling's strength is bound to make exporting harder. It noted that the Confederation of British Industry's latest survey found that firms citing price as a constraint on their ability to export had risen to the highest level since 1989.

On the positive side, sterling's strength should help inflation prospects, with factory gate inflation falling to 1.7 per cent in December, the lowest rate since the mid-1980s. However, Oxford still predicts that interest rates will rise after the election to rein back consumption. It assumes a rise in base rates from 6 per cent now to 7 per cent by the summer and argues that the increase could be greater if Labour wins the election.

Oxford believes that higher levels of employment, together with Budget tax cuts effective in the spring and windfalls from the flotation of building societies, should mean that consumer spending grows more than 4 per cent this year.

But it says this does not represent the outright consumer boom that some commentators are expecting. It notes that the consumption boom of the late 1980s was fuelled by financial deregulation and a massive build-up in personal sector debts which is unlikely to be repeated. If anything, consumers may want to pay off some of this overhang of debt, limiting the extent to which windfalls feed through into consumption.



Bank of England staff test out their systems in Threadneedle Street for the start of the new sterling money market operation today. The latest step in the Bank's modernisation is the use of gilt repos in its daily operations for the first time as well as the broadening of its counterparties to include banks and securities firms. The Bank believes that these reforms give Britain modern money markets to compete with the rest of the world

IPD attack Labour's union plans

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S personnel managers today reject as "unworkable and disruptive" plans by Labour, if elected to government, to introduce new laws on trade union recognition.

Although Labour has not detailed its plans, the party would provide for unions to be legally recognised for collective bargaining on pay, hours, holidays and training if a majority of the relevant workforce so desires.

But the Institute of Personnel and Development (IPD) today publishes a report drawn up by the London

School of Economics, which examines the two periods of statutory union recognition in the 1970s, and says that "trying again an approach which has failed before" is unlikely to offer solutions to Britain's competitiveness problems.

The institute says that the experience of recognition in the 1970s is a "salutary warning" that long-term relationships based on mutual trust and goodwill cannot be established by legal imposition.

Geoff Armstrong, IPD director-general, says that employee support for trade

unions has fallen dramatically, as has the coverage of collective bargaining, with "collective class identity a very distant memory, at least in the workplace". He says trade union membership is no longer a natural and obvious choice, adding: "Trade unionism is withering on the vine."

Mr Armstrong points out that many companies now have more sophisticated channels of communication with their employees than those provided by trade unions.

The IPD's move comes as company directors today call

for a halt in all new employment regulations, with the Institute of Directors attacking steps such as the EU's working time directive and the "inflexible and sometimes censorious attitude of the discrimination industry" in employment tribunals on unfair dismissal.

However, the GMB general union will today break new ground for unions in Britain by announcing a link-up with a German union. In addition, the Government's plans for new restrictions on unions' ability to call strikes are

criticised by the leading jobs think-tank, the Employment Policy Institute (EPI).

Already widely attacked by employers, the Government's Green Paper on limiting strikes in essential or monopoly services is criticised in an EPI paper, which says that while last year's strikes on the London Underground and in the Post Office "may have taken the gloss off the Conservative Government's claim that Britain is now a virtual strike-free zone", the Green Paper's measures are "a step too far".

Russians to insure in London

A small AIM-listed insurer has been asked by Gazprom, the huge Russian natural resources group, to arrange insurance for its oil and gas installations in a \$22 million deal. Ricman Insurance Investment and Anglo-Russia Insurance, its 49 per cent-owned subsidiary, are to arrange cover at Lloyd's of London. Ricman has shareholder funds of £1.9 million and made a £250,000 loss for the year to January 31, 1996.

The willingness of Lloyd's to accept the risk will be a test of how much faith there is in Russia's economic stability.

£9bn merger

Hambros and Guinness Mahon, the merchant banks, are to merge their fund management businesses to create a new company with £9 billion under management. The new business will be called Guinness Flight Hambros Asset Management. The merging funds are Hambros Fund Management and Guinness Flight Global Asset Management.

EDS deals

EDS, the computer services group, is poised to announce deals in Central Europe and the Middle East worth \$400 million. EDS is the preferred bidder to run the computers for Israeli Military Supplies and is in final negotiation with the Czech Republic's army and with a consortium of financial institutions in Poland.

Teledata jobs

Teledata, part of Scottish Telecom, will take on 150-200 workers in Glasgow by the end of June this year, and a further 300-350 jobs will be created by March 1998.

Sears sues Coopers & Lybrand for damages

By ADAM JONES

SEARS, the troubled retail group, is suing Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, over disputed VAT work.

The retailer has issued a writ in the High Court demanding damages for the alleged breach of an agreement made in 1991.

It is also claiming damages for loss and damage caused by alleged negligence in Coopers & Lybrand's performance as accountants and tax advisers during the Customs valuation work. Interest payments are also being claimed.

Sears is listed as plaintiff with four subsidiaries: Footwear Corporation, BSC Footwear Supplies, Coopers (St Ebbes) and British Shoe Corporation. It is understood that the sum claimed is of the order of tens of thousands of pounds, relating to work carried out for Footwear Corporation, a subsidiary of British Shoe Corporation.

A spokesman for Coopers & Lybrand said the writ was issued as a hedge against future deadlock because the deadline for any legal action was approaching. He said: "Our understanding is that this is purely a protective writ relating to an ongoing client matter. Both parties are optimistic that it won't go past this point." The writ was issued by Timuss Sainer Dechert, of London.

M&S to test clothing mail order in autumn

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MARKS & SPENCER, the high street retailer, is preparing to launch trials of its long-awaited clothing mail order service this autumn.

The new business will be run from Warrington, where the company has established warehousing and telephone sales facilities for its existing, smaller mail order services. The facilities are being expanded into a fully fledged order fulfilment centre.

The service will be run by Marks & Spencer alone and not as a joint venture. The company is expected to use its charge card database to target customers.

It is believed that Marks & Spencer has shown no interest in buying any established catalogue business. It has also

consistently refused to say whether it has decided to launch a clothing mail order service, although it admits that it has been studying the possibility. According to a spokeswoman, the company has still not made a decision whether to go ahead or not. However, retail analysts are convinced that autumn trials are now on the cards.

Marks & Spencer, under Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, has been gradually expanding its range of home delivery services. It now publishes a furniture and homeware catalogue and offers a business clothing mail order service. It launched a Back to School catalogue last autumn.

The new venture will be the

first test by the company, which already controls 10 per cent of the British clothing market, of the market for catalogues offering its standard range of clothing.

The launch of the service is certain to cause a stir in the increasingly competitive clothing mail order business.

Last year Burton bought Innovations and Racing Green, two niche mail order businesses. It is set to launch its own catalogues offering the full range of group brands within the next two years. These include Dorothy Perkins, Burton Menswear, Top Shop, Top Man, Principles and Evans.

The popularity of mail order for clothing retailers has apparently been inspired by the success of the Next Directory and N Brown direct catalogues, which sidestep the expensive agents used by the older, established "big book" catalogue companies.

Littlewoods, a big agency player, now has a non-agency catalogue while Great Universal Stores, the biggest player of all, is considering entering the clothing mail order market.

Consolidation of the agency mail order sector was put on hold when Littlewoods' purchase of the Freemans mail order business from Sears, the struggling Selfridges-to-British Shoe retail group, was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.



Greenbury: expansion of home delivery services

Regent attempts to recover Czech losses

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

REGENT Fund Management, the aggressive subsidiary of Jim Mellon's Regent Pacific, is seeking to recover \$10 million after it attempted to acquire a Czech fund with no assets and no management.

Regent lost the money after its Czech Value offshore fund built up a 33 per cent stake in Trend Fund, a Czech privatisation investment vehicle.

It has since been alleged that Trend managers had siphoned off the fund's \$30 million of assets over six months. Now in the hands of administrators, Trend has become the centre of the Czech Republic's biggest ever financial scandal. Around 200,000 Czechs swapped the coupons they received in the

country's mass privatisation for a stake in the fund.

One analyst said privatisation in the Czech Republic had been plagued by corruption.

Colin Kingsnorth, chief executive of Regent Fund Management, said the company had ripped off the Czech Ministry of Finance after it heard allegations that the Trend managers were selling shares below market to themselves.

He said that Dominic Bokor-Ingram, Czech Value's manager, would stay, adding: "We have instituted a legal test case to recover the money. It will take a long time but we are confident we can get most of it back."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

APOGAMY

(c) Absence of sexual reproduction; asexual reproduction. Specifically in ferns and other cryptogams. Production of a perfect plant directly from a bud on the prothallus instead of by the usual sexual process. "By the suppression either of the sexually produced spore or of the asexually produced spore, the former is an instance of apogamy, the latter of apospory."

DEMIPENSION

(f) The price of bed, breakfast and one other meal at a hotel, etc. Usually in reference to France or some other Continental European country. "Cost? Demipension everywhere. Bread and wine make a good third meal."

FLOPSY

(g) One of a group of rabbits in the children's stories by Beatrix Potter (1866-1943). Hence, a sentimental designation of a rabbit. Her siblings were Mopsy, Cotton-tail and Peter. Her name probably refers to the floppiness of her ears. "All this Robin Redbreast malarky. It's all on a par with the Flopsy Bunnies in coloured hats and white pinafores."

APROSEXIA

(h) Abnormal inability to concentrate one's attention. From the Greek *aproschein* (denying) + *proschon* (to turn (the attention)). "His aprosexia is complete, and he is incapable of interest in anything whatever."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nc6! and if 1... exd6 2 Nxd6 mates. Or 1... Qxb2 2 Nf5! Qxc1+ 3 Bf1 Qe5+ 4 Kh1 and mate follows.

Recommended Offer
by
Schroders
on behalf of
Williams Holdings PLC
(Incorporated in England)
to acquire the whole of the issued and to be issued share capital of
Chubb Security Plc

J. Henry Schroder & Co. Limited ("Schroders") announces on behalf of Williams Holdings PLC ("Williams") that, by means of a formal offer document dated 26th February 1997 (the "Offer Document") and this advertisement, Schroders has made a recommended offer (the "Offer") on behalf of Williams to acquire the whole of the issued and to be issued share capital of Chubb Security Plc ("Chubb"). Terms defined in the Offer Document have the same meanings in this advertisement.

The Offer is made on the following basis:

2 New Williams Ordinary Shares and 704.12p in cash

and so in proportion for any other number of Chubb Shares held.

The Offer currently values each Chubb Share at 439.33p and Chubb's fully diluted ordinary share capital at approximately £1.3 billion based upon the middle market quotation of a Williams Ordinary Share of 318.5p as derived from the Official List for 24th February 1997.

Chubb Shareholders who validly accept the Offer may elect, subject to availability, to vary the proportions they receive of New Williams Ordinary Shares and cash in respect of their holding of Chubb Shares. However, the maximum number of New Williams Ordinary Shares to be issued under the Offer and the maximum amount of cash to be paid out under the Offer will not be varied as a result of the Mix and Match Election. To the extent that elections can be satisfied, Chubb Shareholders will receive New Williams Ordinary Shares instead of cash, and vice versa, at the rate of 322.94p per New Williams Ordinary Share. To the extent that elections cannot be satisfied, they will be scaled down on a *pro rata* basis.

Chubb Shareholders (other than certain overseas shareholders) who validly accept the Offer are entitled to elect to receive Loan Notes in lieu of all or part of the cash consideration to which they would otherwise have been entitled on the basis of £1 nominal of Loan Notes for every £1 of cash consideration receivable under the Offer. The Loan Notes will be transferable but no application will be made for them to be listed or dealt in on any stock exchange or any other trading facility.

The full terms and conditions of the Offer, the Loan Note Alternative and the Mix and Match Election (including details of how the Offer may be accepted) are set out in the Offer Document, the Listing Particulars and the Form of Acceptance.

The Offer has, by means of this advertisement, been extended to all persons to whom the Offer Document may not be despatched and who hold, or who are entitled to have allotted or issued to them, Chubb Shares. Such persons are informed that copies of the Offer Document, the Listing Particulars and the Form of Acceptance are available for collection during normal business hours from Exchange Registrars Ltd, 18 Park Place, Cardiff CF1 3PD and from Exchange Registrars Ltd, New Garden House, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JA.

The Offer, which has been made by means of the Offer Document and this advertisement, and the Mix and Match Election and Loan Note Alternative, will each be open for acceptance until 3.00 p.m. on Friday, 21st March 1997 (or, in each case, such later time(s) and/or date(s) as Williams, subject to the rules of the City Code, may decide). Application has been made to list up to 215,783,460 New Williams Ordinary Shares which may be issued in connection with the Offer.

The directors of Chubb, who have been so advised by Rothschilds and Goldman Sachs, have stated that they consider the terms of the Offer to be fair and reasonable and have unanimously recommended all Chubb Shareholders to accept the Offer, as they have irrevocably undertaken to do in respect of their aggregate holdings of 1,830,992 Chubb Shares, representing approximately 0.6 per cent. of Chubb's issued share capital.

The Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or Japan and accordingly the Offer Document, the Listing Particulars and the Form of Acceptance are not being and must not be mailed or otherwise distributed or sent in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or Japan.

Neither the New Williams Ordinary Shares nor the Loan Notes to be issued pursuant to the Offer have been, or will be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under any of the relevant securities laws of any state or district of the USA, the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under any of the relevant securities laws of any state or district of the USA, Canada, Australia or Japan. Accordingly, unless an exemption under such Act or other laws is available, the New Williams Ordinary Shares and the Loan Notes may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or Japan or to or for the account or benefit of any USA, Canadian, Australian or Japanese person.

This advertisement is not being published or otherwise distributed or sent to, into or from the USA, Canada, Australia or Japan and persons reading this advertisement (including custodians, trustees and nominees) must not distribute or send this advertisement, the Offer Document, the Listing Particulars or the Form of Acceptance in, into or from the USA, Canada, Australia or Japan nor use the USA, Canadian, Australian or Japanese mails or any similar means for any purpose, directly or indirectly, in connection with the Offer and doing so will invalidate any related purported acceptance of the Offer.

This advertisement is published on behalf of Williams and has been approved by Schroders. Schroders, which is regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Limited, is acting for Williams and no-one else in connection with the Offer and will not be responsible to anyone other than Williams for providing the protections afforded to customers of Schroders, or for providing advice in relation to the Offer.

Rothschilds and Goldman Sachs, which are both regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Limited, are acting for Chubb and no-one else in connection with the Offer and will not be responsible to anyone other than Chubb for providing the protections afforded to customers of Rothschilds and Goldman Sachs, or for providing advice in relation to the Offer.

The directors of Williams accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement and, to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

3rd March 1997

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Swansong of Norway

DANIEL LACK has made the joint Norwegian and Swiss break-up bid for Whessoe his swansong. A director at Crédit Lyonnais, Canadian-born Lack has been working since last June on the first joint cash offer of its kind in a contested bid. For the last two months, he has been working from his command centre at home in East Sussex. He was handed a brown envelope in December when the originations group at CL was integrated with the equity side.

All aboard

EWEN MACPHERSON, 55, must be keen to keep his hand in when he retires from 31 this year. He has just joined Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust as a non-executive director, and is already on the board of ScottishPower and M&G. But isn't there a conflict of interest here? Not at all, says Michael Hart, the trust's fund manager. "We already have Sir John Egan on the board and he is a director at Legal & General. Ewen doesn't do a Nigel Lawson and start advertising the other side's Peps I don't think it will be a problem."



Clarke with photograph

Negative Ken

KEN CLARKE was horrified to see himself captured in multicoloured splendour. As first mentioned in the City Diary, he was presented, on a visit to Rank Xerox's head office, with a digitally remastered photograph, taken when he moved into the Treasury. Looking at the garish snap of his electric blue Hush Puppies and luminous pink tie, he chuckled: "I look like a nightclub bouncer."

LOOKING for a functional timepiece? The latest from Cartier — the Pasha gold watch — keeps both time and golf scores, and all for just \$79,300.

MORAG PRESTON

UK carmaking resurgence driven by the Japanese

Honda's recent Civic launch signposts our motoring future, says Kevin Eason

Perhaps it needed the Spice Girls to liven things up and push the message into the headlines. As publicity stunts go, this was about as low-key as it gets.

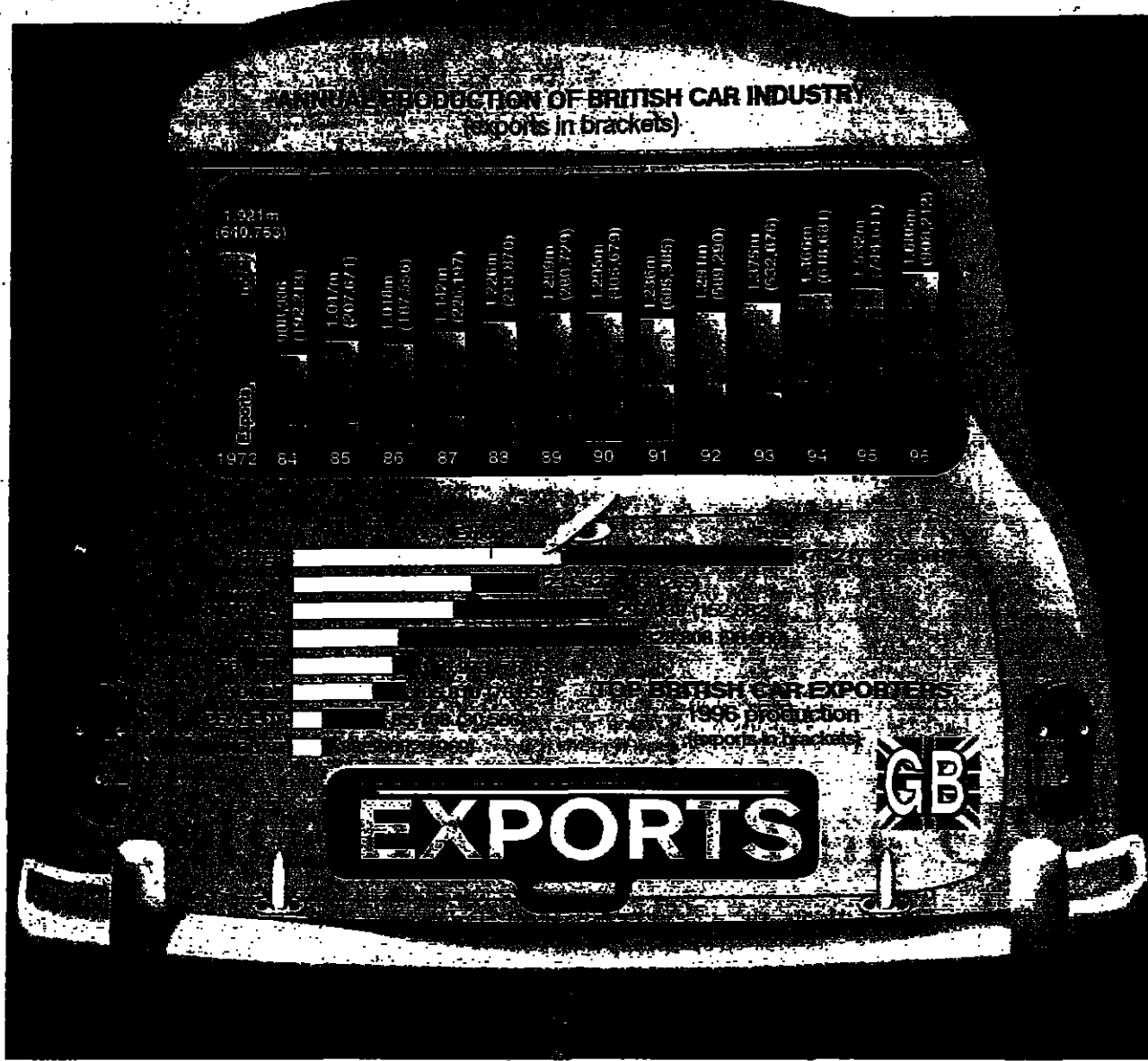
Then, the Japanese are like that. A British company invests £5 in a new machine and teams of public relations people are on the phone for a fortnight extolling the virtues of their clients. Honda spends £260 million and the event slides by with barely a flicker. But the simple unveiling of the Honda Civic was as significant an event for the motor industry as any, for it marked another dramatic change of gear as Japanese manufacturers — Honda, Toyota and Nissan — accelerate car production in this country. Introduction of the new Civic will raise output from Honda's plant at Swindon, Wiltshire, by a third within two years, to more than 150,000 cars a year.

That will make Swindon as big a manufacturing site as Halewood, Ford's plant on Merseyside, and bigger than Peugeot's plant at Ryton, Coventry. Unlike Ryton though, which is largely a local assembly plant, Swindon will make complete cars using 90 per cent components sourced from European suppliers — including 180 in Britain. Unlike Halewood, which makes just one model, the Escort, Swindon will be turning out the Civic and the mid-range Accord, and there are plans to add a third soon.

If there were any fears that the Japanese were doubting the wisdom of investing in Britain, as the pre-election Euro-row rages, Honda's unveiling provides ample evidence that the Japanese are working on a battle plan that goes well beyond the petty sniping of politicians. Hiroshi Okuda, Toyota's president, wounded the Government when he told Britain not to opt out of Europe, warning it that Japan's biggest motor manufacturer would be forced to review its plans for investment in the wake of withdrawal.

For the most simplistic, that meant the Japanese were setting off for home, leaving behind empty assembly lines and thousands of disappointed workers. Nothing could be further from the truth: the Japanese have invested about £3 billion in Britain and have done more to heighten this country's world standing as a car-producing nation than any other since Sir Alec Issigonis invented the Mini.

The Japanese are here to stay and will be largely responsible for the huge growth in investment and production of the British motor industry as we enter the millennium. Over ten years they have helped to push production and export earnings to levels not



seen for 25 years. No longer will car manufacturing be dominated by Rover, Ford and Vauxhall because the Big Three will become the Big Six when the Japanese factories are at full speed.

If Britain opted out of Europe the Japanese probably would halt future expansion — but all three are locked into investments that underpin the future of their UK plants, which will become even more powerful in Europe's car market, with at least nine separate volume models all made in Britain.

Compare that with the domestic business which, Rover apart, comprises factories that are effectively satellite production centres. Only Rover makes a complete range of cars in this country; Ford makes two — the Fiesta and Escort, though Escort production is to be moved to Germany — while Vauxhall makes the Astra and Vectra. Peugeot makes just the 306.

Nissan makes the Micra and Primera at Washington, Tyne and Wear, and will soon add a replacement for the Almera, by which time output will have topped 300,000, becoming the country's third-biggest carmaker. Honda is planning a new small car to add to its other two models, while Toyota is getting ready to double production from its Burnaston plant in Derbyshire, to about 200,000 cars a year, adding the bestselling Corolla to the Carina E. Chances are high that Toyota will also develop a "super-mini" model for Burnaston.

The expansion has been as rapid as it has been remarkable, with Europe's domestic manufacturers shaken not

by the fact that the Japanese have been able to transplant their legendary efficiency and quality levels into Britain, but that they backed up their decision to come here with enormous investment.

Between the wars, Britain was one of the world's most powerful car producers, with Austin, Morris, MG, Riley, Wolseley, Triumph, Rover and Standard dominating the showrooms. India's first car was based on a Morris, even the Japanese turned to Austin to build British-designed cars under licence, while the first BMW was an Austin.

The Japanese have done the most for our world standing since the Issigonis Mini

Mini was launched and the motor industry was cruising, earning export dollars with models such as the Jaguar E-type and the MGB. Production hit 1.921 million in 1972, a post-war record, with exports at more than 640,000 — but already the writing was on the wall.

Factories were bloated, executives and workers alike made arrogant by success and, as a result, British cars stopped being the epitome of style and performance and gained a reputation for unreliability and slipshod quality. At the same

time, a new car called a Datsun was gaining in popularity.

The impact of Datsun was so great that "free-market" Britain introduced an import quota on Japanese cars — about 11 per cent of all UK sales — that still exists today. It might have been described as a "gentleman's agreement" but the intention was clearly to prevent domestic manufacturers being swamped by cheap, reliable Japanese cars at a time when they were in turmoil. The shakeout of the Seventies left the industry weak and carrying the legacy of outdated and largely unwanted models, so much so that, in 1984, UK car production hit a low of 908,000, with just 192,000 exported.

With Europe growing into a huge trading bloc and the yen gaining in value, making their cars more expensive, the Japanese needed European manufacturing capability that would allow them to manufacture cheaper cars, which could be sold freely — and in big numbers — for the first time.

Nissan led the way in 1986 to become the jewel in the crown of Japanese investment in Europe. The Washington plant is Nissan's most efficient and is scheduled to make 250,000 cars this year, including about 180,000 for export, worth more than £1 billion. Quality and reliability levels are so high that Washington-made Primers are sold in Japan as a prestige product, complete with UK badge and a Union flag on the boot.

The three Japanese factories are expected to turn out about 600,000 cars by 1998, probably accounting for more than one third of total British output,

with up to 80 per cent for export worth £6 billion for the British economy.

Yet the success story of the Japanese transplant should not be measured by statistics alone, nor even by the spectacular productivity of the three British sites. Their influence has ranged through industry. Look what Nissan did to stimulate a moribund components industry when it arrived, forcing suppliers to examine their shortcomings if they wanted to do business with Japanese carmakers. Toyota and Honda reinforced the high demands, but all three have aided growth by signing long-term deals with component makers, guaranteeing security in return for better efficiency and quality.

The result is that some suppliers — such as Hardy Spicer, GKN and Lucas — have become world-class. Everybody has benefited with the result that other carmakers suddenly wanted to buy components here. Mercedes and Volkswagen both targeted suppliers in Britain, while Vauxhall and Ford are spending more here.

Yet the Japanese have also restored self-confidence to the British car industry. British executives and workers now believe they are as good as anybody in the world; given the investment and the organisation, they are efficient, enthusiastic and ingenious.

Ten years ago, nine in every 100 cars made in Europe came from Britain; last year that figure was 12 in 100 and this year it will grow again as output heads towards two million cars a year. Thanks to the Japanese, the British are back.

Make-believe beanfeast

The Lipton Test Radio 4 (FM) 10.00am

Just about the last place you would expect to run into cowboys full of beans — and just about the last place you would expect to run into cowboys full of beans — is in a field in Telford, Shropshire. A touring Wild West Show No. 1000, getting away from everyday boredom, Maverick, Wyatt Earp, Cactus Moon and The Bit, clanking around in their stunts of hanging about in their tepees, hats rimmed with the skins of rabbits, and fighting on under their buckskins. They are sating targets for the snipers of next-door neighbours ("We had cowboys doing our double-glazing"), Maureen Lipton, famed for her sardonic quips, is surprisingly tolerant of these folk stricken by what she calls "mad cowboy disease".

Voices of Sport: Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm

In Ian Payne's profile of Eddie Waring, nobody denies that he was the commentator who made folks down South aware of what they were missing by not sharing the passion for rugby league enjoyed by folks up North. But Michael Parkinson reminds us that up North and among league purists, Waring's name was mud because they believed his clowning sold the game short. Colin Welland goes further. He says Waring reduced rugby league to the level of mud-wrestling. Would it have been a different story if Waring hadn't played the fool in *It's a Knockout*, *The Morecambe and Wise Show* and *The Goodies*? Peter Daville

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Boy Laid live from Manchester 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell and Kevin Green 3.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session presented by Steve Lamacq 8.30 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Ann Hobbs 1.00pm Claire Sturgess with the best new music after midnight 4.00 Live Warring with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Alan Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Sade 7.00 Steve Wright at the Mouset 7.30 Malcolm Lockwood with Desca Band Days 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Radio Days 11.00 BBC Big Band recovers American dance band broadcasts (80) 12.30 The Janssens 12.45am Steve Madden 3.00 Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 7.00 The Magazine with Diane Madge 12.00 Midday with Mel, includes at 12.35pm Moneyweek 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverness Nationwide News 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Voices of Sport. See Choice 8.00 The Morning Mail. Coverage of Coventry City v Wimbledon 10.00 News Talk and Jerry Verno 11.00 Nightline with Valerie Sansford 12.00am After Hours 2.00 Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Pat Ross 8.00 Scott Chisham 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Max Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00pm Mike Dixon

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Mendelssohn (Overture: The Hebrides, Fingal's Cave); Rosamunde (In the Forest, Sperrung); Turler (Tres Dances Anduluses); Copland (El Salon Mexico); Purcell (Incidental music: The Indian Queen); Poulenc (Puls Sonata); Glazunov (Piano Concerto No 1 in F minor) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday, includes Teleram (Quartet in D minor); Mozart (Symphony No 28 in C, K209) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Piers Burton-Page, includes Berlioz (Marche Troyenne); Liszt (Sonata in B minor); Schubert (Sonata in C); Liszt (Hungarian Rhapsody No 6); Arriaga (String Quartet No 1 in D minor); Liszt, and Beethoven (Paganini Study No 2 in E flat) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Anton Webern 12.45 Strauss, Serenade for Wind Instruments, Wind Soloists of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe 1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Grigor Sokolov, piano. Includes Chopin (Nocturnes in E minor, Op 72 No 1; in C sharp minor, Op posth; in F sharp minor, Op 48 No 2; Sonata No 3 in B minor, Op 58) 2.00 From the Proms. Another chance to hear the BBC Singers and Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis. Beethoven (Symphony

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Oil the Shell 7.30 The Village Choir Show 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 International Rediff 9.05 Business 9.15 Anything Goes 9.45 Sports Round-up 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Oil the Shell 11.30 Countdown 12.00am News 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Andy Kershaw 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Omnibus 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.30 Just a Minute 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Jukebox 8.05 Business 8.15 Britain Today 9.30 Moments That Changed Our World 9.45 First on the Scene 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.10 Talk Five 11.15 Record News 11.30 Midweek 12.30am Global Concerns 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.35 Words of Faith 2.30 Omnibus 3.15 Sport 3.30 Meridian Feature 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Alan Mann 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susanrahn Shroves 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert. Shostakovich (Piano Concerto No 1 in B flat minor) 3.00 Jamie Cullum 7.00 Classic Newgrange 7.30 Sonoma. Folk. Flute Sonata in G minor, Op 42 8.00 Evening Concert. Teleram (Hamburg Ebb Flow); Handel (Organ Concerto in F major No 13); Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in E major, 15. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 1 in F major) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' John 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) 7.00 Robin Barker (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Rendel Lee Rose

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.45 Letters from Here and There 6.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests 10.00 News: The Lipton Test (FM). See Choice (20) 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Women's Hour, with Sharmistha Patra 11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444 Personal finance news presented by Vincent Duggan 12.00 News: You and Yours (FM). Consumer news and current affairs with Charlotte Smith 12.25pm Contemporary. Nad Sherin hosts the general knowledge music quiz 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (FM) (2) 2.00 News: Staters, by Tina Papier. Maddy prompts Nathalie to run away to Belgrade. Starring Haydn Gwynne and Jonathan Coy (20) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Weller sees a new version of the Faust legend on stage and talks to the choreographers of the fourth tour of the Royal Ballet Dance Bites 4.45 Short Story: Shootproof, written and read by Rod Beacham 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News

RADIO 4

6.30 Just a Minute. Nicholas Parsons is joined by Tony Hawks, Peter Jones, Clement Freud and Fred MacAulay (2) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper. Julie Emsler investigates the recent involvement of the big supermarkets in home shopping (2) 7.45 The Money Play: Harry's Bag. A thriller set in present-day Liverpool. Written by Stephen Butterfield. With John McArdle, Pauline Farnham and David Flesherman 9.00 On the Foot. Pam Cockrell meets a judge to hear the case in the treatment of horses (20) (2) 9.30 Kaleidoscope (2) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Railway Bazaar, by Paul Theroux (20) (2) 11.00 The Trade Rig (FM). Nick Baker takes a look behind the scenes of The Fifth Director, the magazine for organisers of state and screen violence (20) (2) 11.00 Education Matters (LW) 11.30 Pankhurst (FM). A comedy by Tanika Gupta. With Charlotte Chokiel and Meera Syal (14) (2) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00 News and 12.27am Weather 12.30am Late Book: The Hobbit. Another chance to hear the epic fantasy adventure written by J.R.R. Tolkien. Abridged by Brian Sibley and read by Michael Hordern (1/15) (2) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 98.0-99.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. RADIO 5. FM 94.8-96.0. CLASSIC FM. FM 100.1-102.1. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053. 1088. Television and Smith, Susan Thornton, Jane Gregory and John McManus.

BUILDING SOCIETIES ACT 1986

Notice under paragraph 7 of Schedule 17 to the Act

Notice is hereby given that Halifax Building Society (the "Society"), Register No. 245B, whose principal office is at Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2RG, desires to transfer its business to Halifax plc, and that the Society has applied to the Building Societies Commission to confirm the transfer.

Any interested party may make written representations to the Commission and/or give notice of intention to make oral representations to the Commission with respect to the application. Written representations and notices of intention to make oral representations should be received by the Commission at Victory House, 30-34 Kingsway, London WC2B 6ES by 21st March, 1997. Oral representations will be heard by the Commission on 24th April, 1997 at a time and place to be determined by the Commission.

HALIFAX

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE HX1 2RG.

Brown's brainchild would improve the risk premium

Gordon Brown's proposals for a Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee have affected policy-making in recent months? One crucial area of debate has been the impact of the rise in sterling. The Bank had been arguing that it should be neglected. Either it was a result of anticipated rises in UK interest rates, in which case it would fall back on less than expectations were validated. Or it reflected expectations of easier policy abroad, in which case the UK needed both a stronger pound (to counter lax policy elsewhere) and higher interest rates (to tackle domestic inflation risks).

However, there is a strong counterargument. Much of the rise in sterling over the past year appears to reflect expectations of easier monetary policy in Europe, not because the Bundesbank has embarked on an unjustified expansion, but because fiscal policy is being tightened far more there. On top of this, corporate restructuring, and fears of future retrenchment in the welfare state, are adding to a very subdued outlook for private spending in Europe. To the extent that sterling's strength reflects these forces, it amounts to a genuine tightening of UK monetary conditions, which requires little or even no validation through higher rates here. Arguably, the strong currency is a far from ideal way to tighten policy because it

impacts disproportionately on the traded sector. We would probably be better off with a somewhat more deflationary fiscal policy, which would bring expected UK interest rates closer to those in Europe and so probably depress the exchange rate. That may or may not be delivered by whichever government is in power after the election.

Would a Monetary Policy Committee have altered Bank views to reflect the ideas described above? There is no way to be sure. But what is likely is that such a committee should have at least aired some of these alternative ideas, and presumably this discussion would have eventually, appeared in public minutes. Any move towards greater openness, and a sense that all angles are being considered, would surely improve credibility, and thus, in the longer term, help to bring down the risk premium that still persists in gilt yields.

GILES KEATING
Credit Suisse First Boston



Brown: welcome ideas



GOOD ODDS 41

Ladbroke
lines up for
profits leap

BUSINESS

CIVIC PRIDE 46

Japan drives the
resurgence in
UK carmaking



MONDAY MARCH 3 1997

Absent workers 'costing £13bn'

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is losing at least £13 billion a year because of absenteeism at work, new survey evidence suggests today.

Absenteeism, too, is growing sharply in some parts of the economy. It is up by a quarter in the past three years in the public sector. Stress and low morale are seen as two of the key likely causes.

In its latest study of absenteeism at work, the Industrial Society says that the overall absence rate in Britain — the proportion of the workforce absent — is now 3.59 per cent, or 8.26 days per employee each year.

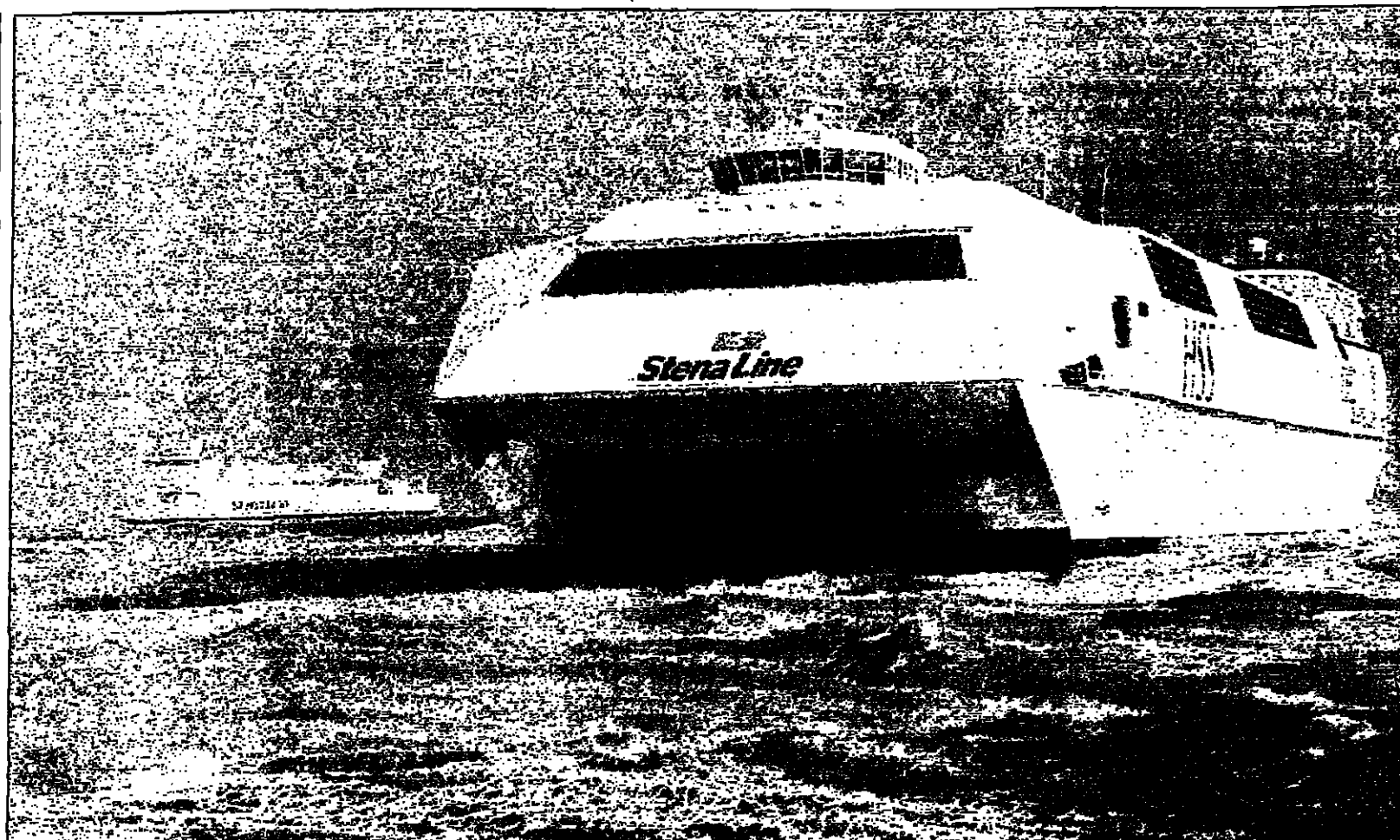
In the report Tony Morgan, the society's director, says: "The hidden costs of absenteeism, in addition to the headline figure, confirm the scale of the problem. Organisations should be monitoring absence rates carefully, identifying the true causes and costs, and looking for solutions."

The society says that employers that accommodate working from home, flexible hours and flexible annual leave all enjoy lower than average absence rates.

Employees record colds & flu, stomach upsets and headaches as the three most common causes, while employers — after allowing for colds & flu — cite stress, personal problems, sickness, low morale and job boredom.

Pay increases for clerical and secretarial support staff are now running at 3 per cent, according to a new Gordon Yates-Times survey of staff in more than 500 companies.

Male and female managers are fast achieving equality at work, the Institute of Management says today, with 80 per cent of them now believing that either sex should receive equal treatment.



All at sea: Stena has told its crews that it would shed about 320 jobs — a third of its total seafaring complement — if the merger with P&O is approved

Merger will bring 600 job losses at P&O and Stena

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

MORE than 600 seafarers are to lose their jobs if the planned merger of the P&O and Stena ferry fleets goes ahead, raising fears that the final tally of redundancies will far exceed the 1,000 forecast by Lord Sterling when the deal was announced last year.

Maritime unions said they were deeply concerned by the redundancy plans, which will cut the workforce of the combined cross-channel fleet by about 22 per cent, because the competition authorities have not yet ruled on whether or not the merger can proceed.

Stena told its crews in January that about 320 jobs would go — a third of its total seafaring complement. P&O announced to its employees last week that 240 of its 1,859 ratings and 45 of its 80 officers would be made redundant. There will also be further cuts in the number of managerial and shore-side employees.

Both companies said the redundancies will be voluntary and they were announcing them now only to comply with employment rules.

However, Andrew Lington, spokesman for NUMAST, the union of ships' officers, said that seafarers in Dover were increasingly fearful for their futures.

"We are very concerned by what has taken place," he said. "We believe it is a breach of undertakings given to us by the companies, and a breach of the spirit of the reference to the MMC. It is out of order that these fairly radical job losses are being activated before the MMC has ruled."

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission announced last week that its report would not be completed until April 4 instead of March 6 as originally planned. The new date virtually guarantees that Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, will not rule before the election.

The delay will make it almost impossible for the merger to be completed and the new joint venture launched in time for the start of the summer season, deepening the financial crisis facing

Britain's biggest ferry operators.

The merger, which will see two passenger ships taken off the Dover-Calais route, was triggered by the new competition from the Channel Tunnel — which doubled capacity on the crossing — and by a savage price war last summer.

Stena's shares slumped 5 per cent last week, when it revealed that the company fell £37 million into the red last year, partly as a result of the increasing competition. P&O's ferry profits, which reached £120 million before the opening of the tunnel, have also been all but wiped out.

The two companies hope the reduction in capacity following the merger will allow fares to stabilise this summer. Ironically, the ferry operators have enjoyed one of their busiest winters this year after the disruption caused to Channel Tunnel services by last November's fire.

Mr Lington said that the merger should be delayed while the ferry companies were profiting from the problems in the Channel Tunnel.

He said: "The concern we've got is that once again employees seem to be paying the price of wider problems that we dispute the scale of in the first place."

City censured by Bank over 'bonus culture'

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

THE high-risk, high-reward "bonus culture" rewarding dealers for taking chances, will today come under two-pronged attack with the first market reaction to the NatWest derivatives scandal and an official warning from the Bank of England.

Shares in NatWest are expected to tumble as dealers react to the £50 million "black hole" identified in the highly volatile derivatives market, announced on Friday evening. A team was at the headquarters of NatWest Markets, the investment banking business where the suspect derivatives trading took place, over the weekend.

Although more information will be available today, four

conclusions have already emerged. The bank does not think anyone else was involved other than Kyriacos Papiou — who carried out the trades and then left to join Bear, Sterns before Christmas — and his supervisor, Neil Dodgeson. Mr Dodgeson has been suspended.

There is no question of the Serious Fraud Office being called in unless the bank's own inquiry and those of the Bank of England and the Securities and Futures Authority, the City regulator, indicate that fraud has taken place. "It's a trading problem at the moment — not necessarily criminal," a NatWest spokeswoman said last night.

The losses have been covered or hedged against and will not exceed the £50 million that the bank has estimated. Finally, NatWest insists the

true scale of this problem was not uncovered until Wednesday, the day after NatWest presented 1996 figures to the market that showed an unexpectedly strong performance from investment banking.

"There's no case to make that we knew about this problem before the results," the spokeswoman said.

The Bank of England today, with conspicuously good timing, publishes a report from one of its economists about the dangers of paying traders large bonuses dependent on profits they generate and then giving them wide discretion over the risks they take with their employer's capital.

High performance bonuses have been worrying the Bank since as far back as the summer of 1995, and Eddie George, the Governor, is known to be taking a personal

interest in the NatWest case. The latest warning, relying on analysis commissioned from Margaret Bray, an economist at the London School of Economics, is published in the second issue of *Financial Stability Review*, a magazine used to disseminate the Bank's views to the outside world.

Daniel Davies, a Bank economist, says no matter how a bonus scheme is designed, "effective controls on risk taking and measures to ensure the honesty of employees are essential". He points out that psychological factors, as well as the desire for a hefty year-end reward, may tempt rogue traders to take excessive risks: "the desire to be a 'star' or to conceal a poor judgement", for example, or a reluctance to accept failure.

When the losses come to light, the employer has little

comeback on the employee, other than the sack. Even worse, if a trader knows his skills are in short supply, this may be little threat. "An employee may be tempted to gamble on the prospect of a big bonus at one firm, with the prospect of employment at another if things go wrong."

The Bank is not the only regulator to worry about the effect of the bonus culture. The SFA's board will next week meet to consider how high up the employer's chain of command responsibility should go, in the wake of the Barings collapse and the Peter Young affair at Morgan Grenfell.

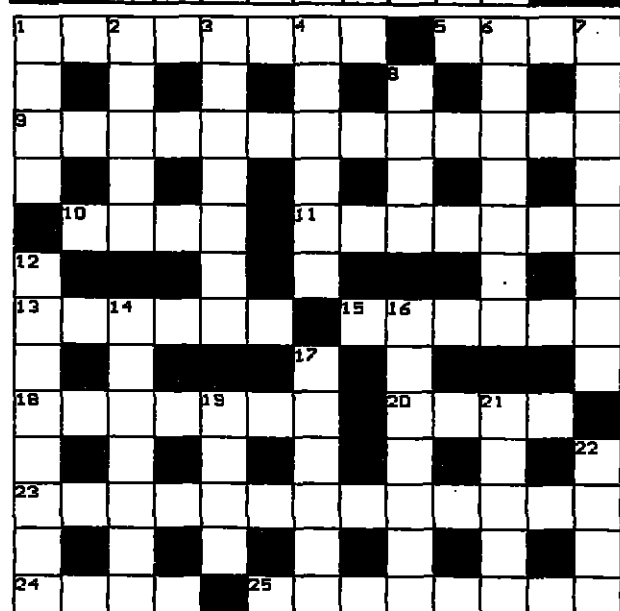
Mr Papiou was a relatively low-paid trader at NatWest, on a salary of about £80,000. By leaving before the year end, he gave up his bonus for 1996, which is likely to have been about £100,000.

BUSINESS TONGUES



ANATOLE KALETSKY gives his analysis of the latest economic trends

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1031

ACROSS

- 1 War/disaster relief agency (3,5)
- 5 Part of hand; trophy (4)
- 9 Be all one deserves (5,3,5)
- 10 Stabiliser; sounds like benefit cheque (4)
- 11 Hazardous polar mass, may calve (7)
- 13 Rudderless (6)
- 15 Old and useless (4,2)
- 16 Holder of responsible post (7)
- 20 Two of Henry VIII's wives (4)
- 23 Trouble in store (esp. for Fausy) (3,5,2,3)
- 24 Be excessively fond (4)
- 25 Falstaff's red-nosed crony (8)

DOWN

- 1 Iron rot (4)
- 2 Unclean (5)
- 3 Recite rapidly, easily (4,3)
- 4 Penalty box (ice hockey) (3,3)
- 6 To increase (7)
- 7 Lessen severity of (8)
- 8 Unconfined (4)
- 12 Strangled by wire (8)
- 14 Think; bounce back (7)
- 16 Modified (7)
- 17 Three-horse Russian vehicle (6)
- 19 Head cook (4)
- 21 Gurkha homeland (5)
- 22 Popular but false idea (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1030

ACROSS: 1 Republic 5 Plus 8 Salvo 9 Paragon 11 Bit 12 Hideout 13 Exort 15 Jet lag 18 Sophocles 19 Win 20 Do or die 21 Ambie 22 Monk 23 Jeopardy
DOWN: 1 Risible 2 Pilot 3 Brotherhood 4 Impede 6 Leg-pull 7 Synd 10 Rubber-stamp 14 Typhoon 16 Guntery 17 Fleese 18 Sodom 19 Weber

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Northern Rock issues float details

By Caroline Merrell

NORTHERN ROCK Building Society will today unveil full details of its plans to float on the stock market.

Under the terms of the plan, the one million members of the society will each get a package of shares worth more than £1,000. Some analysts believe that the society is also planning to offer institutions the opportunity of buying shares.

The £1 billion society is the smallest of the four building societies going through the conversion process. It will follow the Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Halifax to the stock market in the Autumn. It currently accounts for 8 per cent of all mortgage lending in the UK.

This UK's biggest mortgage lender is the Halifax, which accounts for 19 per cent of the mortgage market.

Unlike the Halifax, Northern Rock is not planning to waive its five-year protection from takeover. Its size would make it a takeover target, even though 5 per cent of its profits will go towards the establishment of a charitable foundation to support causes in the North East.

BBC poised for commercial launch

By Eric Reguly

THE BBC is expected to enter the commercial arena in earnest this week with an official agreement to launch a family of subscription television channels with an American TV company.

The channels will be owned by a 50-50 joint venture created by BBC Worldwide, the corporation's commercial arm, and Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer controlled ultimately by Telecommunications Inc. America's largest cable company and one of the largest programme suppliers. Flextech will provide all of the funding, estimated to be more than £100 million, to develop, launch and promote the channels.

The BBC will sell programming to the joint venture and will share in the income, most of which will be used initially to pay off the joint debt. The venture's programming portfolio will consist of about eight channels, including BBC One, described as a "visual Radio One for pop music fans"; BBC Horizons, to be based on the BBC's nature, science, history and technology library; and BBC Style, a food and fashion channel. UK

Gold, the most successful Flextech channel, will also be part of the joint venture.

Some of these channels will be shown by British Digital Broadcasting, the Carlton-led consortium planning digital terrestrial channels in 1998.

A parallel deal between the BBC and Discovery Communications, a Telecommunications Inc programming affiliate in the US, is also being developed. Bob Phillips, the BBC's Deputy Director-General, has said that the BBC's goal is to generate more than £200 million a year in commercial revenues.



Phillips: £200m a year goal

Fears grow over single currency

British entrepreneurs are more worried about the implications of a European single currency than they were a year ago, according to a survey of more than 1,000 owner-managers by 3i and MORI. Opinion has shifted sharply against the single currency. Whereas last year's survey showed an even split on the issue, this year shows 10 per cent more respondents were against the single currency than for it.

Ladbroke plans

Ladbroke Group, the hotels and leisure combine, will this week be pressed by analysts to reveal its intentions towards the £180 million bid battle between two of Britain's biggest casino operators. Ladbroke, which reports on Thursday, is tipped as counter-bidder for Capital Corporation, which is under hostile offer from London Clubs International.

Granada sale

Granada Group is negotiating to sell the Plaza Athenaeum hotel in Paris to the younger brother of the Sultan of Brunei, Prince Jefri Bolkiah. It is expected to pay more than £40 million.

Vox pop visions of an ideal world

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS EDITOR

MEMBERS of Parliament should be breathalysed before they vote in the Commons, more trees should be planted near motorways, unhealthy foods should be taxed like cigarettes and alcohol and the national curriculum should include new subjects such as martial arts, taxation, life skills and innovation. These are some of the findings of a survey by Reed Personnel Services, the

recruitment specialist. Reed requested 1,000 ideas for the next government through its Internet site and through mailings to 38,000 individuals. Roads and transport and the behaviour of MPs and Parliament were among the major preoccupations in almost 500 ideas so far. Taxation came third, followed by the environment and education.

The most popular idea of all was to abolish road tax and replace it with an increased levy on fuel while the most startling idea identified by Reed was to fit

a sharp metal spike on each car's steering wheel, aimed at the driver's heart. This, the argument went, would force people to drive more carefully.

Alec Reed, chairman of Reed, said: "The ideas we have received show that people want trouble-free travel, honest MPs, taxation which benefits people, and an education which gives individuals real life skills, all in an environmentally friendly world." The ideas will be presented to the three main political parties nearer to the election.

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TIMES 3/3

NEW CORBY

Berisha declares emergency to quell Albania revolt



Armouries were looted and a police station torched as Albania sank deeper into chaos, writes Richard Owen in Tirana

ALBANIA was close to collapse yesterday as protesters from Vlore and other southern towns looted weapons from police and army barracks, burned down one of the presidential palaces and threatened to march on Tirana, the capital. "In an armed force" to bring down President Berisha, MPs last night voted to declare a state of emergency, and Albanian officials said the secret police could be merged with Interior Ministry troops to form a united force to restore order.

The terms of the state of emergency were not made clear, but President Berisha said the State would use "necessary force" to quell the rebellion, and he appealed to opposition leaders to appear on television and urge calm. There were reports that army columns were heading for Vlore, and that some of the arsenal of weapons looted by protesters had fallen into the

hands of children and teenagers in southern towns.

In Vlore last night, hospital sources said that two people, including an eight-year-old girl, had been shot dead.

In a televised address, Mr Berisha called the unrest "a communist rebellion backed by foreign intelligence agencies". He added: "We promise you we will employ all measures under the law, even the most difficult ones, against this rebellion."

Soon afterwards, rioters stormed a police station and set it on fire in the southern town of Gjirokastra.

Earlier Mr Berisha, who is due to appear before parliament today to be re-elected, gave in to long-standing opposition demands and sacked Aleksander Meksi, the Prime Minister, and his right-wing Government. But leaders of the demonstrators who have turned a protest over lost savings into an uprising said



Albanian riot police on a street corner in Tirana await orders during a lull in clashes with anti-government demonstrators yesterday

the dismissal was too little too late, and demanded an interim administration to prepare for "early, free and honest elections". Mr Meksi said he had been "sacrificed like a sheep", and no new govern-

ment could stop the slide into chaos. He said it would take at least a year to regain control over "the tens of thousands of guns now in the hands of criminals, rebels and desperate people". He blamed left-

wing militants and said the "nation and life of Albania is in danger".

Leaders of the Vlore revolt issued an ultimatum calling "for Sali Berisha not to be re-elected President and parlia-

ment to be dissolved". Mr Berisha said he would present parliament with a new government that would be again dominated by the ruling Democratic Party, which holds 122 of the 140 seats. But he offered

to hold talks with the main opposition grouping, the seven-party Democratic Forum, which is dominated by the Socialists, the former Communists. The Forum rejected this as "another attempt to deceive

the people". The Socialists hold only ten seats, but say they were the victims of electoral fraud in last May's poll. Neritan Ceka, an opposition leader, said Albania faced civil war unless Mr Berisha quit.

Nine people — six police and three civilians — died on Friday evening when a regular mass protest in the port of Vlore over savings lost in "pyramid funds" turned into a gun battle between demonstrators who had looted weapons from an army barracks, and members of Shik, the feared secret police still in place from the communist era.

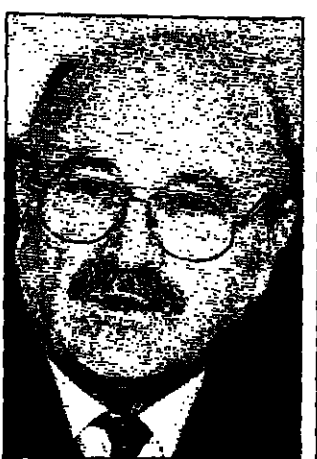
Yesterday Vlore was in the hands of men who drove through the town waving Kalashnikovs and pistols and firing into the air. Some claimed they were holding Shik agents as hostages.

Shots were fired in other towns, including Sarande, also on the Adriatic coast, where police stations and court buildings were looted and set on fire. The looters took police weapons, burned down the Italian colonial-era library and buildings in the port area, and freed about a hundred prisoners from jail.

Leading article, page 21

Scapegoat sacrificed to rising militancy

By James Pettifer



Meksi linked to diesel smuggling

THE exit of Aleksander Meksi's Government had been expected for some time, as a scapegoat for the chaos caused by the collapse of pyramid investment schemes.

Mr Meksi, the Prime Minister, was an able figure, Orthodox and an expert on Byzantine buildings. But he and his family are widely believed to be implicated in smuggling diesel to Montenegro during the Bosnian war. The profits financed the failed investment schemes that brought financial ruin to thousands.

The widening political crisis has reached the stage where it will have important regional effects. Relations with Greece, which had been better over the last year, are now dominated by the prospect of mass illegal immigration this spring.

In the south, members of Albania's Greek minority, which is significant in Vlore, are in the forefront of opposition militancy, and some government officials believe ethnic Greeks are involved in a political underground that has supplied stolen weapons to demonstrators.

In northern Albania the extreme-right Shkoder United League that stands for a Greater Albania now dominates the region. This has destroyed a key Berisha pow-

er base. Neighbouring Kosovo, legally part of Serbia, has a 90 per cent Albanian population and is regarded as a tinder box. There has been increasing Albanian militancy in the past year.

It is widely believed in Tirana and by some Western analysts that armed militants of the Kosovo Liberation Army are based in Albania. They have been responsible for a string of violent attacks on Albanian collaborators, and Serbian officials this year.

With the growing anarchy, any prospect of a central government crackdown on the demonstrators seems remote. Government has lost the capacity to deploy state power through the police apparatus in most of the country, and armed men can now operate easily in many remote regions.

International support for Mr Berisha over the past five years has been based on the assumption that he can control nationalist militancy over Kosovo. That may be the most serious casualty of the crisis.

Rage of betrayed heralds anarchy in 'one-party state'

By Richard Owen

THE worst nightmare of President Berisha came true at the weekend: the impoverished and backward people who once applauded him as the slayer of communist despotism and builder of a better future took up arms and turned on him, setting one of his summer palaces on fire and calling for his blood.

What began two months ago as a protest over savings lost in fraudulent pyramid schemes became an armed revolt to topple him from power, five years after he ousted the deposed and discredited communists.

Yesterday President Berisha's seaside palace, overlooking the Adriatic in the hills high above the port of Vlore, was burnt-out ruin, looted and with nothing left to lose. The villa, inherited from Enver Hoxha, the paranoid Stalinist who ruled for decades, had become a local symbol of everything that had gone wrong in Albania as its struggle to transform itself from Europe's poorest state into a modern nation.

Demonstrators carried off furniture, paintings and doors and uprooted flowers in the villa garden, waving them triumphantly as trophies of revolt. The guard was redoubled on the main presidential palace near Skanderbeg Square in Tirana.

In the port of Sarande, familiar to tourists in Corfu, for whom it is a short ferry ride away, black smoke billowed above burnt buildings. In both towns protesters seized hold of police and army weap-

ons from ransacked buildings and drove through the streets firing exultantly through car windows. There were no police to be seen. Shops were looted in Vlore and Sarande as order broke down altogether.

Mr Berisha's reluctant and belated dismissal of the unpopular Government of Aleksander Meksi, intended to defuse the crisis, has had the opposite effect, encouraging the protesters to press for Mr Berisha's resignation.

"Berisha is as corrupt as the men who ran the pyramid schemes," said Hassan, an electrical engineer who lost all his savings in Vefa, the biggest pyramid scheme, after working for two years in Greece. "Berisha runs a one-party state: the Democratic Party controls everything. He lives in Hoxha's palaces. He uses Hoxha's secret police to stay in power."

He was white-faced with anger. But, I pointed out, President Berisha had dismissed Mr Meksi, the unpopular Prime Minister, and offered to hold talks with the opposition. "It is not enough for Meksi to go," Hassan said. "Berisha himself must go."

This weekend the Vlore protesters went a step further and armed themselves with anything they could lay their hands on: not just stones, some iron bars, but also guns, some looted, some already available to Mafia gangsters. "It is amazing this has not happened before," one Albanian journalist said. "Albania is disintegrating into political anarchy and economic bankruptcy before our eyes."

New scheme launched to help people who get a raw deal from medical insurance

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AMONG the 5.7 million in Britain with private medical insurance, one group tend to pay more yet claim less.

They are usually in one of the Professions or work for themselves. Generally fit and healthy, they follow a responsible lifestyle, and probably have taken very few days off work over the years.

But, if illness should strike, they cannot afford to be away sick for any length of time, and most have families depending on them.

So they tend to opt for fully comprehensive private medical cover. They find that so-called 'budget schemes' offer too many restrictions; such as no out-patient cover, private treatment only if the NHS cannot treat them within 6 weeks, or there is a restricted hospital list.

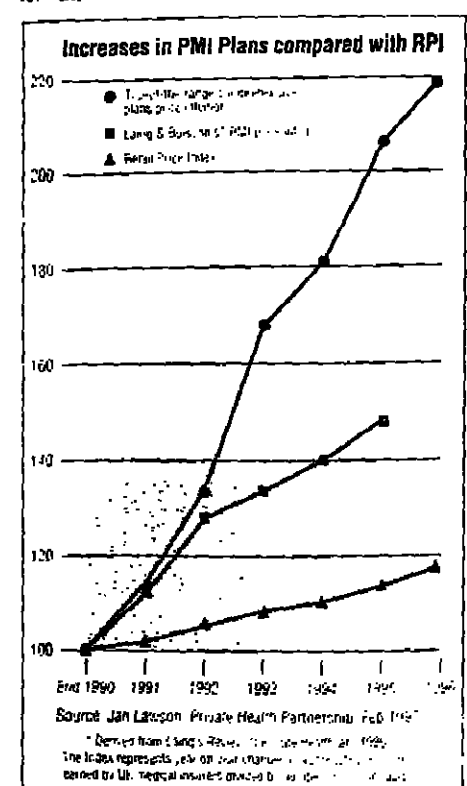
But comprehensive schemes are not cheap and, like all medical insurance, the subscriptions continue to rise much faster than general inflation.

That's why Western Provident Association, one of Britain's largest and longest established private medical insurers, have designed a unique scheme especially to meet the demands of this important group — the 2-4-1 health insurance plan.

WPA 2-4-1 gives two important advantages within one scheme. Frees up money for other uses, and gives you the security you need.

The principle behind 2-4-1, like all good ideas, is very simple. It's called 'shared risk' and asks subscribers to decide how much responsibility they want to take upon themselves by paying a proportion of the annual cost of any private treatment from their own resources.

Depending on how much subscribers choose to pay towards their treatment in any one year, they can save as much as 75% on an annual premium of the highly competitive Oak scheme — Western Provident's top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy. It is therefore an even higher percentage saving on other companies' more expensive policies. For Western Provident's new 2-4-1 scheme provides unlimited cover for any cost over and above the subscriber's agreed shared-risk contribution. With the cost of an intermediate operation with a stay in hospital likely to be more than £5,000, this makes 2-4-1 a very good deal indeed. What's more, because 2-4-1 is restricted to people with a responsible attitude towards their health, Western Provident are confident that future price rises will be significantly less than other schemes.



Western Provident 2-4-1 at a glance

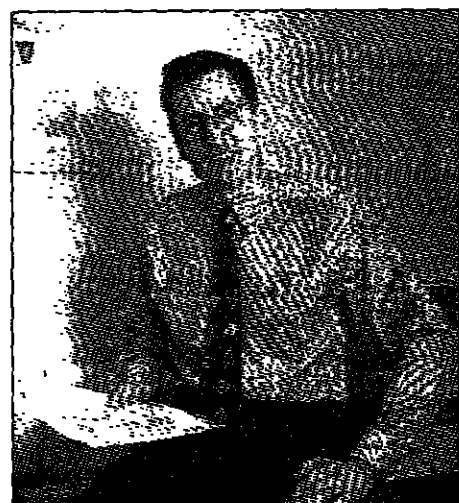
- You choose to carry part of the annual cost of private treatment. This can be the first £2,000, £4,000 or even just £1,000 for the policy years. The saving on your premium depends on which figure you choose. £1,000 saves 33%, £2,000 saves 50%, and the maximum £4,000 saves 75%. You can ask for your shared risk to be increased or decreased at each renewal time.
- 2-4-1 will provide unlimited cover for any cost over and above your personal liability, providing that the medical condition has not been excluded by our medical underwriters at the time of your application and your claim is within the rules of the plan.
- No medical examination is required, but you will be asked to complete an application form giving details of your medical history.

2-4-1 is also available for married couples and families, but the shared risk is per person.

Children up to 21 can be covered, but with a much lower shared risk figure of only £250.

- WPA will give you every assistance to move to 2-4-1 from another insurer, but may exclude any existing medical conditions.
- 2-4-1 is not yet available to anyone over 55, but renewals will be accepted after this age.

For such an important decision, you may wish to know more. Please do not hesitate to 'phone us, without charge or obligation on the number below. We promise we will not contact you in any way, except at your request, but will send a confirmatory letter following your call. A trained adviser is available to visit you, but only if you ask for one.



Typical examples of 2-4-1

Dick Murray is in a professional occupation, in his early forties, married with one child, living in London. His annual 2-4-1 family policy premium would be £826 (compared to the £3,600 he would be paying now for a typical top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy) if he elected to take a £4,000 risk share. He would benefit from a saving of £2,774 every year.

Emma Jones is in her mid-forties, lives in the North of England, with 'Scale 1' London cover. The premium rates for 2-4-1 are determined by where you live and unlike most PMI plans you have access to all private hospitals — there is no restricted list. Miss Jones, if she opted to pay the first £2,000, would save herself approximately £1,200 on the cost of a typical top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy.

2-4-1 not only provides unlimited cover for any costs over their agreed contributions, but, because it is a top-of-the-range scheme, Dick Murray and Emma Jones have access to over 650 hospitals nationwide, including some of the most famous establishments in London and the Provinces. (There are no restrictions on your choice of hospital).

Most people maintain a medical insurance policy for between five years and ten years.

As 2-4-1 savings occur every year, Mr. Murray would save (assuming he remained healthy)

between £13,870 and £27,740, and Miss Jones between £6,000 and £12,000, without any interest on these sums! This they could either save towards their long term care, put into a medical savings account (msa), use for school fees, top up pension contributions, or they could invest their savings to build up a nest egg with the interest.

For some, their annual 2-4-1 premium would be the same as they now pay each month for their top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy.

At the same time, they know the guaranteed limit of how much they might have to find in one year if the unexpected happens and they need medical treatment. 2-4-1 will pay any costs above that point.

Price Comparison of some Top-of-the-Range Private Medical Insurance (PMI)		
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Prime Health	Primecare Plus, Gold	from £1,193.85 \$
Clinicure	Care Blanche	from £1,382.64 \$
PPP Healthcare	Platinum	from £2,336.18 \$
WPA	2-4-1 with £2,000 shared risk	from £ 259.14 depending on where you live.

* Price based upon a single policyholder aged 40 next birthday. Excluding any excess premium reductions. \$ Source: Money Marketing December 1996

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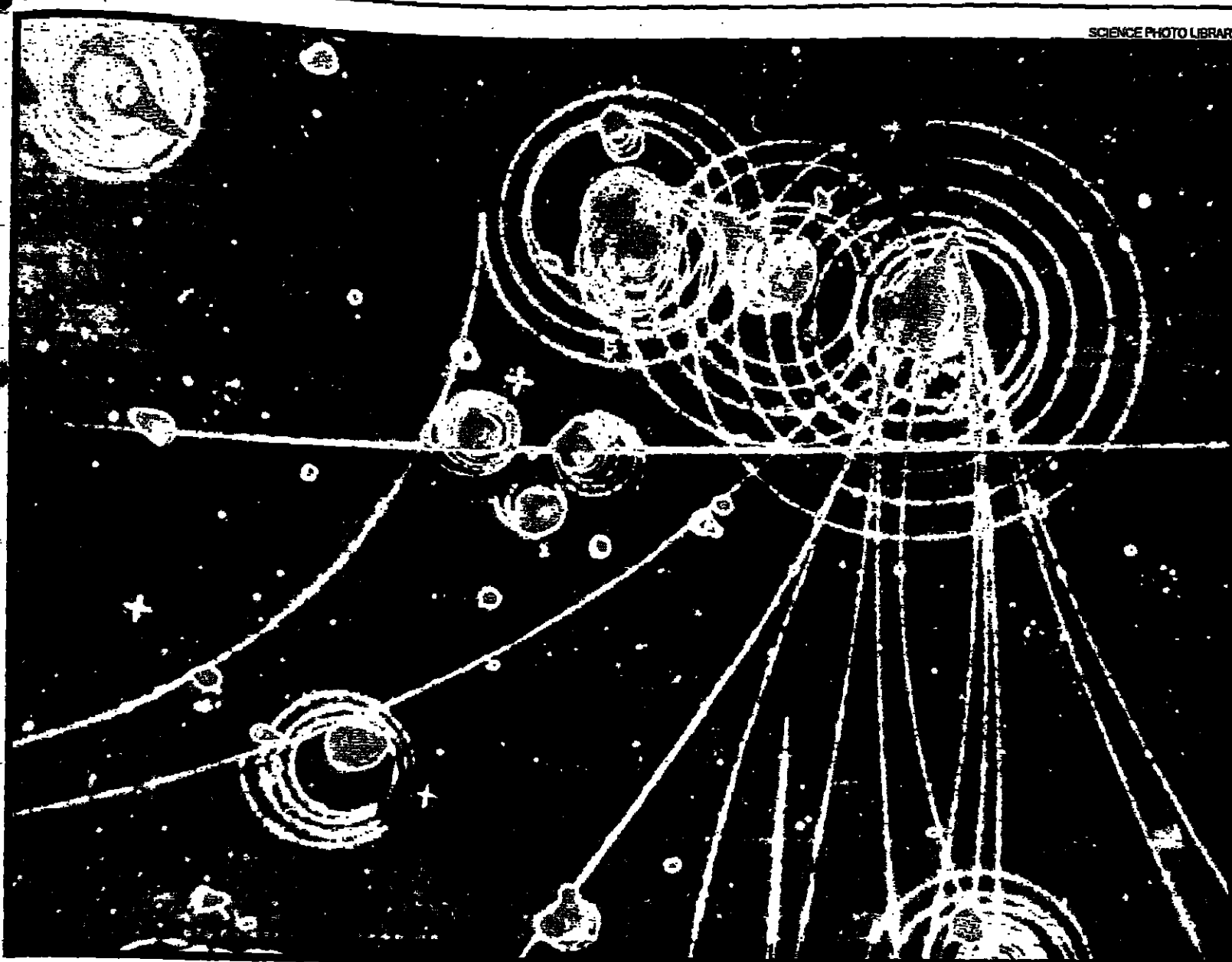
The facts behind the rising cost of medical insurance

'Medical inflation' is higher than general inflation. This is due to a number of factors.

- Continual advances in medicine, offering major innovations in diagnostic techniques and a wider range of treatments.
- People are living longer and have higher expectations from medical care.
- The cost of private treatment has risen faster than NHS costs as there is no buffer of

rationing by waiting lists.

- Growing expectations of a medical remedy for practically every illness means that people now make more private medical claims than ever before.
- The claims of the few are met by the premiums of the many. More claims mean higher premiums. 2-4-1 points the way out of that continuing situation.



The Standard Model, the theory of matter which successfully explains the outcome of collisions such as these, between two protons, is under threat

The unexpected guests at the physics party

There are 20 people, all mutual acquaintances, at a dinner party. Suddenly a stranger appears. Everyone looks round but, in time, the stranger is quietly absorbed. Then another stranger turns up, then another, and, minutes later, another. The original party guests are flummoxed. It's possible the newcomers are all turning up to the wrong party. Or are they supposed to be there?

Particle physicists were faced with an equally spectacular breach of protocol last month. Two accelerator experiments — where bunches of particles were hurled at each other with unprecedented energies — threw up multiple results that just didn't fit with expectation. Now some scientists suspect they glimpsed hitherto unseen particles, gate-crashers in the world of particle physics. If confirmed, the news will rank as one of the most exciting scientific discoveries this century.

The collisions, conducted at a 0.3 km accelerator ring underneath Hamburg, were between protons (positively charged particles found in the nuclei of atoms) and positrons (antimatter versions of the electron, with a positive charge). Protons and positrons, travelling in opposite directions around the ring, smashed into each other at virtually the speed of light. In most cases, they bounced off each other at odd angles.

But on a handful of occasions, something very strange happened. The two particles

Accelerator experiments — where particles are hurled at each other with unprecedented energy — have thrown up results that have baffled scientists, says Anjana Ahuja

got closer than expected, and then the positron bounced straight back off the proton. The Standard Model (SM), the theory dictating how matter in the Universe is stitched together and how particles interact, says this violent rebound should have happened no more than six times during their experiments. The researchers claim it happened on a total of 17 occasions. Scopes call it a statistical fluke — there is a 1 per cent chance they are right.

That leaves a 99 per cent chance that the unusual results signify something. This feeling is strengthened by the fact that the same "fluke" has been recorded in two separate international experiments — called H1 and Zeus — conducted at the Hadron Electron Ring Accelerator at the underground DESY laboratory in Hamburg. "It's like lightning striking twice in the same place," says Roger Cashmore, Professor of Experimental Particle Physics at Oxford University, and leader of the British contingent in Zeus. "That is why people are taking this so seriously. And these events are absolutely not

artefacts of the experiment. They stand out like a sore thumb." Both research groups have submitted their results to a German physics journal.

One speculative theory is that the collision led to a kind of particle scam — the positron raced towards the proton, penetrated it, fused temporarily with one of the building blocks within, and then shot out again.

The problem is, the SM says that positrons and protons are built from completely different bricks which cannot be stuck, or fused, together. The building blocks of the positron are called leptons; those in protons are called quarks. None of the four forces in nature is capable of glueing leptons and quarks together.

However, introduce a mysterious fifth force, and the observations slot neatly into place. A positron penetrates the proton and, courtesy of this fifth force, joins up with a quark temporarily to form a "leptoquark". This leptoquark instantaneously decays, lobbing out an enormously energetic positron.

Another possibility is that the bizarre findings hint at a hidden substructure in fundamental particles. Quarks and leptons are considered fundamental — everything in nature is ultimately constructed from them. Perhaps, Professor Cashmore says, they are not so fundamental after all. "We might be peeling away at another layer of the onion," he says.

Professor Robin Marshall, who leads Manchester University's participation in H1, favours the substructure argument. "Something deep inside the proton is giving the positron an enormous clout," he says. "Not only is the positron stopped in its tracks, but it's sent flying back with more energy than it started off with."

The SM does not provide for leptoquarks, which is why particle physicists think they have a sensation on their hands. Professor Marshall says: "One hundred years from now, we will not be talking about the Standard Model in its present form."

For some, the SM has always been condemned, because it lacks the finesse expected of major theories. Murray Gell-Mann, the theoretical physicist who first predicted the existence of quarks, summed it up in *The Quark and the Jaguar*. "The Standard Model contains more than 60 kinds of elementary particles, and a number of

interactions among them, but no explanation for all that variety. The model contains more than a dozen arbitrary constants describing those interactions... It is hard to accept as fundamental a theory in which so many important numbers are incalculable in principle."

Maligned though it is, the theory has its defenders. Professor Cashmore admits that the SM "has as many holes as a sieve" but merits respect because it crystallises accurately 20 years of particle physics experiments. He thinks a bit of the model is missing. "There is no credible alternative," he says simply. "We have to hope that numbers in the model that now seem arbitrary will fall into place as we advance."

But there is a popular rival to the SM. Supersymmetry theory states that there is a mirror world in which every single particle has a twin identical except for a property called spin. Introducing new particles allows for more interactions.

All scientists agree that the way to resolve the matter is to take more measurements, and both experiments will start up again this week. Among those on the H1 experiment will be researchers from Birmingham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester and London. Zeus includes participants from Bristol, Glasgow and Oxford. New results will be available within a year, and there is everything to play for.

The researchers will keep a volunteer in a tent, and capture the air coming out of the ventilation system. Then chemists will break down the human odour into constituent substances. Each chemical will be tested on mosquitoes, to see if there is a magic scent to which the insects flock. This work will be painstaking — mosquitoes, like all insects, have highly developed olfactory systems, and are able to sniff out the tiniest amounts of particular chemicals.

Before they embark on this complex project, the scientists will design a trap to ensnare mosquitoes attracted to the smell of sewage. Pungent though such odours are, they are chemically simpler to imitate. At the moment, such mosquitoes are kept at bay by insecticides.

Green Planet Products, a Spanish company, has given the researchers £100,000 over two years to develop a greener solution.

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

How a haemoglobin transfusion boosts tobacco

Red-blooded plant

ANAEMIC-looking houseplants may really need a blood transfusion, research in Sweden has suggested. When a team from the University of Lund gave tobacco plants the gene for haemoglobin, they were astonished by the results. The modified plants grew big and bushy, shooting up faster and generating far more nicotine than regular plants. If this isn't a fluke, it looks as if they may have stumbled on a way of making many plants far more productive.

Haemoglobin is the red pigment that carries oxygen in the blood of vertebrates. It is also found in lower species, and when a team led by Dr Lef Bülöw, of the Centre for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Lund, used conventional genetic engineering techniques to insert the gene for haemoglobin from a bacterium called *Vitreoscilla* into tobacco, they did not expect a particularly dramatic result. Plants are already believed to produce their own haemoglobin, mostly down in the roots.

Remarkably, however, the modified tobacco performed like Jack's beanstalk. The plants germinated in three to four days instead of six to eight, flowered sooner, and grew faster. After 35 days of growth they weighed 80 to 100 per cent more than untreated tobacco, producing a third more chlorophyll and nicotine, the team reports in



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Nature Biotechnology. What is more, says Dr Bülöw, they appear greener than normal plants.

The team worked on tobacco not because of its economic importance but because it is a handy plant for such genetic trickery, and is often used by plant geneticists. While nicotine yield went up by about a third, the amounts of another substance in the leaves, anabasine, fell. The reason for this, the researchers suggest, is that nicotine production requires oxygen, which is supplied by the haemoglobin, while anabasine production does not.

"It's a far-out experiment, and they got far-out results," says Dr Nicholas Brewin, a plant biologist at the John Innes Centre in Norwich. "Nobody had even thought before to put haemoglobin in a plant. We thought that plants are OK for oxygen; after all, they make the stuff." If these good results can be maintained when the modified plants are grown in normal field conditions, says Dr Brewin, "it creates a whole new dimension in biotechnology."

Dr Bülöw has now turned his attention to another plant, datura, where he says he is getting similar results. Next, he is going to try to pull off the same trick with rice and maize, two of the major world food crops. Patents have been applied for, so if it works there too, the cash registers will start ringing.

Don't forget to drink coffee



THREE coffees a day could help the elderly to keep their memories in trim, according to Dutch scientists. They have found, in tests on younger people, that coffee is an effective stimulant, able to reduce forgetfulness by half.

Professor Jellemer Jolles, the director of The Netherlands Memory and Ageing Programme, carried out tests on young volunteers made temporarily forgetful by the drug scopolamine. Two hours after being given the drug, the volunteers' ability to remember a series of words they had learnt was severely affected, but the loss of memory was halved if the drug was followed within an hour by three cups of ordinary coffee. Memory recovery was also faster after drinking coffee, but decaffeinated did not work.

Professor Jolles asserts that coffee should be the benchmark for determining the effectiveness of a new range of memory-enhancing drugs for Alzheimer's patients. No drug should be prescribed that it not more effective than three cups of coffee, he says.

Gene research brings new hope



TWO British teams have produced encouraging results in gene therapy trials. In separate reports in the journal *Gene Therapy*, groups from Edinburgh and from a consortium from Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester and Leeds show that by wrapping the normal cystic fibrosis gene inside fatty molecules called liposomes, it can be successfully delivered into the airways and taken up by the cells there.

Cystic fibrosis is the commonest inherited disease in Britain, the lung being the worst-affected organ. So far, the trials have been tests of principle, and have shown that the procedure is safe and that the gene is absorbed and functions. Professor David Porteous, of Edinburgh University, says the results justify further research aimed at treating the disease itself. "There is a long way to go before we have a cure for cystic fibrosis but we are moving in the right direction," he says. Dr Martin Scott, of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, says: "It's good news for people with CF and their families."

The case of the planet that never was



TWO astronomers who found a planet orbiting around a distant star were mistaken, according to a new analysis. The discovery 16 months ago by astronomers from the University of Geneva was the first-ever evidence that stars other than the Sun have planets, and was greeted with great excitement because it increases the chance of life existing elsewhere in the Universe.

Now Dr David Gray, of the University of Western Ontario, has found a simpler explanation for the behaviour of the star, 51

Pegasi. He says that "wobbles" in the image of the star, previously identified as being caused by a massive planet orbiting close to it, are in fact the result of natural variations.

"Something else is going on, and it's no longer reasonable to talk about a planet pulling the star around," Professor Gray said. The chances of the variations being caused by a planet is "vanishingly small," he reports in *Nature*.

The discoverers of the planet, the Swiss astronomers Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz, have hit back, claiming that the conclusion was "extraordinarily premature".

Keeping man off the menu

"HUMAN biting catches" have the worst scientific job in the world. Their grim task is to sit unprotected in mosquito-ridden areas, and then count up the number of bites they have accumulated. This tells scientists how active the local mosquito population is. Unsurprisingly, biologists

have been trying to dream up a more humane way of collecting this information. Now scientists at Imperial College, led by Dr Gay Gibson and Dr Jim Hardie, are trying to devise a mosquito trap that can mimic the smell of a human being and so replace these unfortunate human

bait. Quite why these flying menaces find us so appealing is a mystery. The carbon dioxide we exhale makes up about 40 per cent of our attractiveness," Dr Gibson says. "Nobody knows what makes up the other 60 per cent, although lactic acid, a fatty acid found on the skin, is probably involved."

The researchers will keep a volunteer in a tent, and capture the air coming out of the ventilation system. Then chemists will break down the human odour into constituent substances. Each chemical will be tested on mosquitoes, to see if there is a magic scent to which the insects flock. This work will be painstaking — mosquitoes, like all insects, have highly developed olfactory systems, and are able to sniff out the tiniest amounts of particular chemicals.

Before they embark on this complex project, the scientists will design a trap to ensnare mosquitoes attracted to the smell of sewage. Pungent though such odours are, they are chemically simpler to imitate. At the moment, such mosquitoes are kept at bay by insecticides.

Green Planet Products, a Spanish company, has given the researchers £100,000 over two years to develop a greener solution.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART

The National Portrait Gallery shows August Sander's photographs of old Germany
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ OPERA

Martha Clarke stages Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* at the London Coliseum
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ BOOKS

Pilgrim soul: W.B. Yeats's life and work is explored in a new biography
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



■ DANCE

Philippe Decouflé's magical acrobatic show, *Decodex*, comes to the New Victoria Theatre, Woking
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

Time to recognise a great inheritance

The phrase "the Jew Riffkind" sent out alarm signals. For a young German journalist to be describing (or discriminating) thus was too much for Jews and non-Jews still aghast at the Holocaust. The Jewish community has made its feelings known. The context of the phrase, though, raises another, perhaps less obvious point.

At the outset, let me say that this article does not seek to condemn the young woman. Let us accept that it was written in a rather pedantic fashion to make an ironic statement. The irony was perceived to be that a Jew was quoting a Lutheran. Martin Luther's bold ringing words — "Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me." — have tempted the philosopher and politician ever since they were first uttered. The way it was written, however, made it seem rather out of place that these Lutheran Protestant words should be used by a Scottish Jew in 1997.

It reveals a sense of the ownership of knowledge. I was brought

up as an Anglican Protestant and for more than 50 years in Anglican churches I have listened to the words of Jewish prophets, scholars, psalmists, evangelists and seers. I have chanted the words of the Apostles and sung the songs of David. For centuries Catholics and Protestants of multiple denominations have quoted Jewish scriptures — few more authoritatively than Martin Luther himself. Jewish texts from the Bible rift through British poetry and metaphor, and peoples whose history and environment are far away from Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Jericho have drawn freely on that inheritance.

Until quite recently inside every educated Briton was a well-versed amateur of Jewish history and moral teaching. We quoted knowingly and without irony from another people, another religion,

another time. And this has not stopped during the 20th century, even with the subsidence in the sea of faith. Marx, Freud and Einstein; Mahler and Mendelssohn; Klemperer and Bernstein; Bellow and Singer — these and so many more Jewish intellectuals have irrigated the imagination and opened new paths, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. But they have been open to all-comers.

It is not an irony that Malcolm Rifkind quoted from Martin Luther: it is the mark of respect which an educated mind paid to a master.

The German reaction has been first, that this remark has been blown out of proportion and secondly, that the British ought to look to the mote in their own eye as they persistently lambast the Germans. That the



reaction may have been exaggerated is a point which many would concede in Germany and elsewhere, although it cannot be said too firmly that the Jews cannot be blamed for being on red alert over

this issue. Who can blame them?

The second point — that we give the Germans a bashing in our own press — is easier to discuss and particularly relevant when sensitivities are heightened over Europe. The shadow of Nazism cannot be easily swept away, yet there is considerable admiration for the new Germany and the new Germans in this country. There is also some envy that 50 years on we, "the victors", have not done as well as the country against whom we fought and won some of our greatest battles.

But I must say that this is not one-sided. I have been with Germans during the past 20 years when they have taken no little pleasure in seeing what appeared our endless and hopeless struggle to join the late 20th century. We bashed, perhaps; they gloat, perhaps. Neither is very attractive.

What is more relevant is that time, youth, and the inevitable cohering of Europe is working things out. After all, one of the most renowned world novelists in this country since the war is Gunter Grass; Wagner's music — despite everything — is passionately supported here; Becker is a hero at Wimbledon; the German industrial machine is a standard; and we want to defeat them at football because we acknowledge that they are just about the best at that game.

But it might be worth the Germans remembering that the British bashed everyone: it's a national pastime. And most especially we bashed ourselves. We are world leaders in self-mockery and self-denigration. Other countries regard our television, for instance, as quite remarkable. Over here — perhaps healthily, who knows? —

we like to give it a fair old bashing. Political drama over the past generation has been politically directed against the British, often venomously. The Germans should pity what we do to us.

Look at what the BBC did all last week, our great internationally applauded British institution! As the English rugby team prepared to take the field against the French, the BBC ran a presentation campaign which made us out to be thick, cloddish and boastful.

On one side of the screen they quoted, for example, Rousseau (1712-78): "All human beings are essentially good and equal in their natural state." On the other side of the screen they quoted a former England rugby player: "The lads'll munch them."

There's no doubt that we clobbered ourselves. But most of us also thought it was funny — until we saw the result when the philosophical French won with existentialist expertise. Perhaps the Germans should take up rugby. On second thoughts...

CONCERTS: Political overtones from Henze; and a lively medieval bard

Echoes from a radical era

CBSO/Rattle
Birmingham

sheer beauty of the score: the seductive poetry of *La Mort*, sung here with ethereal ease by Julianne Banse; the eloquence of the extended-voice part for the leader of the survivors, expressively and most skilfully uttered by David Wilson-Johnson; the serenity of settings of lines

adapted from the *Divine Comedy* for the *Chorus of the Dead*, securely intoned by the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus; such profoundly sombre orchestral colouring as that which cast its negative illumination on the nocturnal beginning of Part Two...

Faced with anything as demanding as *The Raft of the Medusa*, any other conductor would surely have devoted all available rehearsal time to the

one work. Simon Rattle made his artistic point, however, by reducing the acoustic focus to the Requiem Canticles — performed with less than completed precision by a small ensemble from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, with the BBC Singers and soloists Deborah Miles-Johnson and David Wilson-Johnson — and then invaded it with the Henze. Overwhelmed by the horror of it at the interval, by which time many from the living chorus had crossed the platform to join the ranks of the dead, the audience was by the end so moved as to offer the composer a restrained but sincere cheer.

GERALD LARNER

Songs of a German knight

New London
Consort
Purcell Room

OSWALD VON WOLKENSTEIN (d. 1445) was a courtier, traveller, soldier, prisoner and possibly the finest German poet before Goethe. His colourful life infuses his verse with the full range of human experience, and the New London Consort's programme of his songs at the Purcell Room reflected the scope of his poetic and musical skills.

Recent research has shown that von Wolkenstein wrote his verse to existing melodies, or even polyphonic songs, though he often adapted the music to suit his purposes, breaking down notes into smaller values and transforming a chanson-style melismatic phrase into quick-fire

declamation. The practice of contrafactum — setting new words to existing music — was widespread and deemed totally acceptable throughout the Middle Ages, but few rearranged and adapted with the flair of this German knight.

Take the spring song *Der Mai Mit Lieber Zal*, an arrangement of a popular song by Jehan Vaillant: von Wolkenstein transforms it into a compendium of birdsong and other onomatopoeic effects revelling in the sounds of the German language. It was delivered patter-song style by Catherine Bott, who, both here and in the still more openly racy items, brought just the right touch of knowingness. The bawdy-with-style tone of *Fröhlich Geschrey* was perfectly offset by her polished delivery.

Equally stylish were her long-time companion in the New London Consort, the baritone Michael George, and — a relative newcomer — the tenor Paul Agnew. George is particularly good at rousing numbers such as *Nu Huss*, while Agnew's light but richly expressive voice is ideally suited to the more expansive lyricism of love songs such as *Der Oben Sweet* or *Du Ausserweltes Schöns Mein Herz*.

Von Wolkenstein's poetry has its own music — he freely invents words to exploit sound and rhythm — and this came across most strongly in *Ach Senleiches Leiden*, performed as an unaccompanied duo by Agnew and George. Not that the instrumental contributions from the New London Consort were anything less than superbly executed. The "performing versions" of their director Philip Pickett were generally convincing, although the recurring recorder trill in the travelogue *Durch Barbarei*, *Arabia* was a little too deliberately "scored" for my taste, a minor reservation that could be extended to the instrumental interpolations in general. These were highly polished, but at times seemed lacking in spontaneity.

TESS KNIGHTON

Teenage triumph

Richard Morrison on *Misper*, a cracker of a new children's opera

Children's opera has a chequered history. But *Misper*, commissioned by Glyndebourne and premiered by pupils from Sussex schools and a few adult professionals, is a cracker. Stephen Plaitce's libretto brilliantly catches the way teenagers talk. John Lunn's music makes up in Nineties energy, noise and variety what it lacks in memorable tunes.

And Stephen Langridge's staging, much helped by Alison Chitty's ingenious designs, sends a cast of 50 youngsters hurtling through a story which — with its urban cocktail of vandalism, arson and bullying, wrapped up in a spot of time-travelling — is like *The Bill*, *Grange Hill* and *Dr Who* rolled into one.

Never dull, in other words, and never patronising: a rare double success in that vital but easily messed-up operatic field known as "outreach". And with the foyers, stage and auditorium bursting with kids, Glyndebourne seemed a hundred times more alive than it does during its "proper" opera seasons to the chattering crowd.

A 12th-century Chinese philosopher (the superb Omar Ebrahim), commanded by his emperor to write the history of the future, literally blots his copybook when his pet monkey knocks over a bottle of ink. He steps into the blot, and into the future, to set matters right. Whisked into modern England, he witnesses a 12-year-old boy, spraying his graffiti tag in a train tunnel, unjustly taking the rap when a gang of youths derail a goods train with a concrete block.

The Chinaman, mistaken for a vagrant or "misper" ("missing person" in police jargon), befriends the boy, but is powerless to intervene in a century that isn't his own. The boy is bullied into silence by the gang in playground scenes that are all too believable. But a feisty girl — inspired by her imaginary friend, an FBI



Getting it right: the superb Omar Ebrahim in the Glyndebourne premiere of *Misper*

agent in a TV series called *The Phoenix Files* — searches out the truth. Along the way, we get such incidental amusements as an impenetrable Gallic proverb from one Eric Cantona (played by Josik Koc). Finally, all is put right and the Chinaman returns to his own century.

There are faults. The crowd scenes have vitality, but emotional moments between individuals sometimes fall flat. That, perhaps, is where a

young cast shows its inexperience. Some vocal lines are pitched too high for teenage soloists, and only the excellent Ben Davies (playing the chief bully) produces the consistently clear diction to match such fine pros as Mary King and Melanie Pappenheim. But in the pit the East Sussex Academy of Music Orchestra, expertly conducted by Andrea Quinn, has fun with the riffs and roar of Lunn's score: brassy and exotic for the

China scenes; cool, ironic and laced with funky rhythms elsewhere.

Other opera companies should follow Glyndebourne's example and introduce children's work on their main stages for at least one week each year. It brings in a whole new audience, and the inspirational value for the youngsters involved could spark a lifelong passion. As for *Misper*, this is one new opera that shouldn't go missing.

THEATRE: Sue Glover's haunting play with themes ancient and modern

In 1987 a play was put on in a room on the fifth floor of Wimbledon Theatre, almost under the dome, and Attic Theatre Co entered the London Fringe listings. Now in larger, more accessible premises at the side of the building, Attic celebrates its tenth anniversary with Sue Glover's haunting play, set on a Scottish coast where two sisters scour the beach for coal and a fisherman's son shoots seal pups for extra cash.

Tangled jensam is piled at one corner of Alison Darke's design, the elements of a home at another, and the rest is a bare stretch where Dot and the simpler (but more perceptive) Cath trail their buckets. This is also where Alec fools around with his gun and a naked girl walks out of the sea, a bullet wound in her foot. Cath and Alec's mother guess who, or rather what, she

Sealed with a fishy child

The Seal Wife
Wimbledon Studio

Alec falls in love with the girl is over whether he shall continue to go after the seals. I could never quite decide if she also loves him, though if she doesn't I can see why she pretends. Just before their child is born he goes hunting again, ostensibly because they need money but chiefly because this is what men do. The closing scenes are charged with sorrow, no less sharp for being inevitable.

Jenny Lee plays a censorious visitor from modern society, fond of babies but keen on regulations, and she also directs, applying an alert delicacy that allows her cast to steal into their scenes like music. Lorna McDermott's pale face and silky hair are physically right for Rona, and her performance moves between wholehearted involvement and moments of abstraction when her attention, perhaps her heart too, is elsewhere.

Mark Bonnar brings passion and amazement to the role of Alec. Persuasive playing also from Anne Kavanagh, the patient grandmother, and Aleta Kesselaar and Carolyn Bonnyman as the contrasting sisters whose beach-wandering enables them to act like a chorus to a tale of age-old passion.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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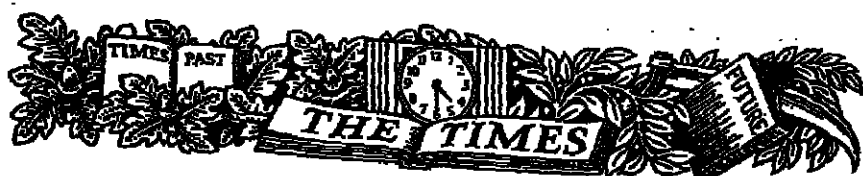
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THIN RED LINE

On defence, Labour is less to be trusted than the Tories

The prospectus Labour offers voters in this election becomes more precise and detailed with every week that passes. There are few secrets left in the party's cupboard. The great exception is defence, on which the public can only guess at Labour's true intentions.

David Clark, the unworriorlike Shadow Defence spokesman, takes pride in the claim — indignantly denied by the Tories — that there is now broad consensus between the two parties on defence strategy. But that may be no guide to the future, simply a reflection of the fact that Labour, judging this to be impregnable Tory territory, has thought it prudent since the last election to take as its motto "if you can't beat them, join them". If the consensus were genuine, there would be no need for the full-scale strategic defence review which Labour intends to complete within six months of taking office.

Labour has announced no agenda for this review beyond saying that it will be "foreign policy led", but admits it could have "painful consequences". Tony Blair charges that the Government's Treasury-driven cuts have left the military overstretched as never before and that since Labour will not reverse these cuts, it must set priorities. But Labour declines to say what it would cut. This is difficult to reconcile with Mr Blair's promise of "a period of stability" for the Armed Forces.

This they badly need, after seven years of restructuring and cost-cutting. This is what the Government has promised, on the ground that British defence doctrine and force structures have completed their adaptation to the post-Cold War world. The Tories have added the pledge that although commitments will continue to be kept under rolling review, there will be no further cuts to the front line. Michael Portillo also insists that current spending levels of around £21 billion a year are "about right". The military, mindful of the Treasury's appetite, are bound to treat that assertion with some scepticism. But far more dubious is Mr Blair's claim that his planned "modernisation" is not a cover for further steep budget cuts. Labour's pledge to maintain spending levels is, after all, good only for the next two years — and has not included major procurement

orders which are still in the pipeline. The Tories are clear that Britain's defence posture must reflect the global character of its interests and that this requires the maintenance of an all-round military capability. On this, Labour is ambiguous, but all signs point to a narrower range of tasks and capabilities. There is no slack to play with in defence and security of the realm, which includes the heavy burden in Northern Ireland. Labour plans to increase Britain's contribution to UN peacekeeping. That leaves only one major target for a review: Britain's contribution to Nato.

Labour has officially abandoned the party conference policy of cutting spending to the Western European average, but sees merit in more role-sharing, leaving Nato allies to shoulder an unspecified range of tasks. A Labour review could well decide to repatriate Britain's remaining armoured division in Germany, on the ground that German forces could repel any foreseeable attack. This would save Labour money only if it then cut Britain's armoured capability, which is what most analysts expect. The greatest cost, however, would be to the credibility of Britain's commitment to Nato — which in turn, and more importantly, would weaken US resolve to sustain, alone in Nato, a foreign military presence on German soil.

Labour's luck is that defence has a lower profile in this election than in any since the war. However hard the Tories press Labour to come clean about its plans, the party may get away with replying that it must not prejudice its promised review. But on defence, Labour has no credibility to bank and the more evasive it is, the more certain it must be that defence will be first in the firing line as Gordon Brown battles to stay within overall Tory spending plans. The generation of Labour frontbenchers with military experience has disappeared. Mr Blair may, as he says, consider the Armed Forces "a national asset to be treasured", but there is a dearth of martial instincts in the Shadow Cabinet, compounded by ignorance of the military. A Tory Defence Secretary can always threaten a backbench revolt against cuts; with Labour, the opposite would be true.

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Debate would be good for democracy and John Major

Speculation rages about whether John Major will engage Tony Blair in a series of election debates. Discussion of this possibility is dominated by the American experience. Debates, however, are the norm in the Western world. Westminster democracies such as Australia, Canada and New Zealand all have them. Many European nations do as well. There are three distinct arguments against them in Britain. The first is that they make our politics appear presidential when they are parliamentary. The second is that they would trivialise matters. The third is that they would utterly alter the nature of modern campaigns. Of these only the third has any validity.

Britain does not have a presidential system. But it is nonsense to claim that it is exclusively parliamentary either. The quality of political leadership is fundamental to policy outcome. Anyone who doubts that should ponder the difference that Tony Blair rather than Neil Kinnock will make to Labour's prospects this time. The charge of trivialisation is especially peculiar. In the United States and increasingly for Britain, it is the conventional campaign that is all too often trivial — dominated by spin-doctors and ten-second soundbites. A debate, by contrast, forces the candidates to tackle a multitude of issues, without any assistance, in the full glare of television cameras. They are by far the most searching experience any contender encounters.

The only valid concern lies in how campaigning would be altered. The prospect of debate will unquestionably dominate this election. It may well overshadow all other

aspects of the campaign. The soapbox could be demoted as the respective leaders rehearse, perform and then promote their case. That may be true in 1997, but would be less so as debates enter the mainstream of electoral life. It is not an irrelevant objection. However, it was probably made inevitable once Parliament allowed its proceedings to be televised.

If debates would be good for democracy, should they appeal to Mr Major? Many of his in-house team raise objections to Paddy Ashdown, whom they would not like included. Only two criteria should be employed. They can argue that only those who have a realistic chance of becoming Prime Minister are included, in which case Mr Ashdown should be left out. Or those who have the theoretical chance should take part in the debates, in which case Sir James Goldsmith and the Natural Law Party are entitled to their shout.

Mr Major should challenge Mr Blair alone and arrangements should be made to accommodate that. All the other objections are essentially procedural, relating to the detailed conduct of the encounters. The Conservatives should be willing to negotiate upon them. Mr Major and his party have argued for three years that new Labour has hidden the details of its policies and has no substance to its philosophy.

If that is true, the Prime Minister should be able to damage him in a prolonged discussion. If, despite that message, he refuses to take up Mr Blair's offer of televised battle, voters are entitled to draw their own conclusions.

ALBANIA AFLAME

The West can no longer ignore its poorest little nation

Europe's poorest country is aflame. Riots have looted shops, seized weapons, stormed barracks and set fire to town halls, banks and police stations in impoverished towns across Albania as fury with President Berisha and his Government exploded on the streets. Dozens have been killed and injured. The police have run away, freed convicts are roaming the streets and mob rule is threatening to degenerate into civil war.

Anger has been gathering for two months since the collapse of fraudulent pyramid schemes in which almost a third of the population had invested. President Berisha, hesitant and uncertain how to respond, has promised to reimburse the tens of thousands left destitute by the loss of their life savings. But few believe him. Several of those who ran the schemes were close to the President, who is widely suspected of tolerating the fraud, giving free rein to the Mafia mobsters manipulating popular naivety and allowing funds to be siphoned off to his Democratic Party. In an attempt to regain the initiative, he sacked Aleksander Meksi, his Prime Minister, at the weekend, and promised to form a government acceptable to the opposition.

It may now be too late for Mr Berisha. The former surgeon, a staunch anti-Communist who has given his country its first taste of freedom and Europe's highest growth rate, may be overwhelmed by Albania's poverty

and old totalitarian ways. Though an intelligent democrat, he has been tainted by accusations of fraud in the recent parliamentary elections. Today he must announce whether he will formally stand for re-election as President: a foregone conclusion that has only added to the frustration of the demonstrators, who see no legitimate way to hold his Government to account.

It was too much to hope that Albania would emerge unscathed from one of Europe's longest and most brutal dictatorships. The miracle has been that until now there has been relatively little bloodshed or political vengeance. It is true that thousands of desperate Albanians have tried to flee to Italy or Greece to escape the numbing poverty. But President Berisha was still the country's best hope — until the pyramid fraudsters turned a deceived nation against everything represented by reform.

Albania's friends have been slow to realise the danger. Aid has been niggardly. The Italians and others have not done enough to curb the infiltration of the Mafia. And Europe, which virtually forgot the small nation during its self-imposed isolation, has concentrated on other Balkan disasters. If Mr Berisha is engulfed by the chaos and the opposition Democratic Forum, controlled by the former Communists, triumphs, the West may regret its nonchalance.

Doubts on use of criminal records

From the Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services

Sir, Part V of the Police Bill sets up a national Criminal Records Agency which will provide checks on criminal records upon request. The highest level of check, the "enhanced" check, is expected to cost in the region of £10 and will include all information held by the police about the applicant.

This proposal is extremely worrying to the 135 voluntary youth organisations and charities represented by the NCVYS. Although the proposed "enhanced" checks will not be mandatory, our members will certainly be expected by parents, insurers and the public to provide evidence of the maximum level of checking.

The checks will be useful, but they are no substitute for the child-protection policies and measures which most organisations already apply, and the huge costs which they will incur will mean that the future operations of some of our members will be seriously threatened.

The Government's suggestion of passing the costs on to the volunteers themselves is likely to prove a very great disincentive to volunteering, as well as going against good working practice.

Yours sincerely,
SUSANNE RAUPRICH,
Chief Executive,
National Council for Voluntary Youth Services,
The Peel Centre, Percy Circus, WCI,
February 26.

From the Chair of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation

Sir, Home Office research shows that one in three of men under 40 years old has a conviction for a criminal offence; 34 per cent to be precise. It is also commonly known that, out of all the possible incentives to offenders to become ex-offenders, finding a job is the most effective. This is why many involved with the resettlement of offenders question the use of criminal conviction certificates, as proposed under the Police Bill.

Under the legislation any employer can require an applicant to purchase a criminal conviction certificate (for about £6) from the proposed Criminal Records Agency and submit it as part of their application.

Our fear is that many employers will indiscriminately use these certificates as a means of shortlisting and selecting for vacancies, thus systematically excluding anyone with a record. Employers will rule out many suitable applicants, and prospective employees, especially young men, will find themselves repeatedly denied access to the labour market, regardless of their efforts to put their criminal past behind them.

For many of the latter the likelihood will be that the *ennui* of enforced idleness, the frustration of exclusion from a working life, and the bleak prospect of living on £46 per week will all make the temptations of crime seem worth re-examining. As it stands, this part of the Bill will increase crime and do little to assist hard-pressed employers find the right person for the job.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA JONES,
Chair, Association of
Chief Officers of Probation,
212 Whitechapel Road, E1,
February 26.

Cost of exams

From Mrs A. J. Young

Sir, Maybe the £15 charge on Latin and Greek A-level candidates (letters, February 21) should be condemned, but this amount is small compared with the examination costs now being incurred by many parents of A-level students. With the advent of modular A-level examinations students are allowed to retake modules and they or their parents have to foot the bill.

A student taking three modular A levels, each comprising six modules with up to four possible retakes at present, might have to pay for 12 examinations. Perhaps the traditional two-year course, culminating in a free exam, wasn't such a bad idea.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. YOUNG,
2 Purcell Avenue,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

Caught on the Net

From Mr Benedict Reid

Sir, Today I visited the impressive White House Internet site which is updated every few hours and contains lots of information on current news.

I then progressed to the 10 Downing Street site and was surprised to encounter Christmas trees and a message saying: "A happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from No. 10." Further surfing revealed that the latest update on the site was on December 21, 1996.

At a time when technology in education is apparently an important election issue, perhaps John Major should get his message updated and join the rest of us in 1997.

Yours faithfully,
BENEDICT REID,
Bower House,
Bowerland Lane, Chilham, Kent,
February 27.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nato's future and Russian concerns

From Dr Leszek Kolakowski and others

Sir, One of the main arguments against Nato enlargement, recently repeated in your pages (leading article, February 17; see also letters, February 10, 12, 17), is that this would upset the Russians, feed their phobias and fears of isolation, and that, as a result, sinister "hardliners" would gain the upper hand and again threaten world peace: so let's do nothing to weaken the position of the moderates currently in power.

This argument is all too familiar from the history of the West's dealings with the Soviet Union: don't talk about human rights, let alone support the Poles, Hungarians or Czechs when they try to loosen the dog-collar, because this might weaken sensible Mr Brezhnev (Andropov, etc) and bring some really dangerous hardliner to power. Indeed, taking this to its logical extreme, one could argue that moderates have always and everywhere been in power, since one can always imagine a worse ruler. Trotsky might have been more brutal than Stalin; a dictator of Iraq worse than the present one is conceivable.

The outcomes in Russian politics depend only to a small degree on the policy of the West, and are unpredictable. After all, Gorbachev emerged after five years of hardline, confrontational policy by the West. Yet the main reasons for his emergence lay inside the Soviet Union itself. To think it depends on us is the classic hubris of Western policy. Wrong then, wrong now.

Russian politicians have neither any right to prevent their neighbours' neighbours joining a defensive alliance of democracies nor any reason to fear that this would threaten the security of their country in any way. Does anyone suppose that, say, the Polish and Czech armies, helped by Nato weapons, are going to invade Russia?

No country is imperialist forever by the immutable nature of its soul, and we see grounds for hoping that a democratic Russia will not resume the expansionism which has characterised most of its modern history. Of course, there has to be an important place for Russia in the arrangements for European security. Certainly, there are real worries about the implications of Nato enlargement for the Baltic states and Ukraine. But this

particular, hoary old argument against ever doing anything to upset the rulers in Moscow should finally be laid to rest.

Yours etc,
LESZEK KOLAKOWSKI,
NORMAN DAVIES,
JONATHAN EYAL,
TIMOTHY GARTON ASH,
c/o 77 Hamilton Road, Oxford,
February 26.

From Mr Oliver Miles

Sir, Sir Brian Cartledge (letter, February 26) implies that the process of change through which Russia is passing is outside our power to influence: all we can do is to erect a "stop" sign on the road from Russia to the West.

I suggest that the dynamics of the situation are quite different: while we cannot and indeed should not try to control Russia, our actions will influence the balance of forces there.

The aim of our security policy for Europe should be, without lowering our military guard, to strengthen those elements in Russia which will work for the harmonious inclusion of Russia in a European system, and to avoid feeding those who exploit xenophobia and interpret our policies as a determination to isolate them. There is a parallel with the way Germany was handled after 1945, learning from the lessons of 1918, by inclusion and not by exclusion.

The weakness of the policy of Nato expansion is demonstrated by the difficult case of the three Baltic states. They too have endured a dreadful Calvary, they too feel threatened by Russia, and perhaps with more immediate justification than the Central Europeans. Yet it is not seriously contemplated that they will be included in Nato expansion. Inclusion would endanger their security, not enhance it.

The same is true of Central Europe. I agree with Sir Brian that there is a debt to be paid to the Poles, Hungarians and Czechs: it can be paid through the enlargement of the European Union.

Our consideration of security should be concentrated where it belongs: on Russia.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER MILES,
British Ambassador to Greece,
1992-96,
2 Belbroughton Road, Oxford,
February 26.

Dowding medals

From Lord Dowding

Sir, Your report of February 7 on the forthcoming sale at auction of the medals of Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding stated: "It is understood that the medals have been with Spink for more than two years while the family decided whether they should be sold."

As present head of the family I can say unequivocally that the family as a whole has not been consulted in this matter and that if I had been consulted, I would not have agreed to the proposed sale. In fact I am horrified.

These medals should stay in Britain. There is a suggestion that they might fetch £60,000 at auction and go to a museum in the US. If I had the money I would buy them back and donate them to somewhere like the Imperial War Museum or RAF Cranwell.

Lord Dowding happens to have been my grandfather, but he was grandfather to all of us alive in Britain today. Surely his medals belong to Britain to show future generations what we are capable of when we put our hearts and minds to a task.

Yours respectfully,
PIERS DOWDING,
House of Lords,
March 2.

Cancer therapies

From Mr D. J. Grocott

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttford ("To treat or not to treat", February 20) reports that "no such treatment" as neutron therapy in the treatment of prostate cancer is available in Britain. This is sad.

Neutron therapy was pioneered at the Hammersmith Hospital in London. The results were sufficiently interesting that they inspired doctors in centres around the world to see if they could be matched to the advantage of their patients.

Controversy in Britain, based on the severity of side-effects arising from poorly focused beams from older technology, reached a pitch in 1989 and virtually doomed a neutron initiative with modern equipment before it started.

However, that new technology and clinical expertise has led to the excellent results in the United States reported by Dr Jeffrey Forman to the meeting at London's Royal College of Radiologists. It is always difficult to change one's mind, but positions adopted eight years ago must be reviewed in the light of fresh data.

The United States data is now maturing at ten years. The time is now right to make this treatment available in Britain, to the benefit of the one in 12 men who will develop this disease.

Yours faithfully,
DON GROCCOTT,
(Director, The Cyclotron
Trust for Cancer Treatment),
Mulberry Tree Cottage,
50 Bridge Street,
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey,
February 24.

A climate in which the arts can thrive

From the Secretary of State for National Heritage

Sir, I agree with Tessa Blackstone ("Heritage versus a creative economy", February 28) about Britain's pre-eminence in the arts. To what factors does she attribute this remarkable flowering of native talent?

When he created the Department of National Heritage, the Prime Minister said: "A country can only be strong, healthy and contented if it encourages its citizens to pursue excellence in sport and cultivates widespread appreciation of the arts." The formation of the department five years ago recognised the vital importance of a rich cultural and sporting life.

We have worked hard to create a climate in which the arts can flourish. The money generated for good causes by the National Lottery — more than £3 billion — has meant unprecedented amounts flowing into the arts, sport and heritage. Later this week the Arts Council will announce an interim scheme using lottery money to help fund more dance and drama training.

Much of Tessa Blackstone's article echoes the lecture I gave to the Royal Society of Arts last October. She criticises the Government for its policies on art and education. It was because we understand the importance of the arts in education and the development of young people that I published a major policy statement on the arts and young people last summer.

One of the 47 action points in *Setting the Scene* was to work with the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to review the place of arts in the curriculum. The joint international conference which my department has just held was an important step in this process.

The cultural landscape of Britain is changing, with new centres for the arts in Salford, Bristol, Newcastle and other cities. The arts play a vital part in economic and social regeneration. The success of the lottery in providing buildings and equipment has led the way to investment in human capital. The Arts Council's "Arts4Everyone" scheme, with its emphasis on young people, is designed to encourage participation and build audiences.

On my appointment as National Heritage Secretary I said that I considered myself to be as much a Minister for the Future as for National Heritage. One fifth of jobs created in the next decade will be in tourism-related industry. The policies of my department are concerned with the future, through new technologies for libraries and museums, the shape of the media in the 21st century, the celebration of the third millennium, and the health and fitness of the next generation.

These are the serious issues which we have been addressing, not the trivial question of my department's name.

Yours sincerely,
VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY,
Department of National Heritage,
24 Cockspur Street, SW1,
March 2.

Surname usage

From Dr Basil Greenhill

Sir, Changes in forms of address are not confined to the use of surnames (letters, February 8, 18, 20, 22, 25).

Hjalmar Johansen was the sole companion of the great Norwegian explorer and statesman Fridtjof Nansen when, in March 1895, they left the steam schooner *Fram* drifting in the Arctic Ocean in an unsuccessful attempt to sledge over the ice to the North Pole.

They had been living off the wildlife in the most rigorous conditions for over nine months when, as Johansen records in his book, *With Nansen in the North* (Ward, Lock & Co. 1899), on December 31: "Nansen proposed that we should begin to say 'du' (thou) to one another. Hitherto we had called each other 'de' (you)."

Yours faithfully,
BASIL GREENHILL,
West Bohemian Farmhouse,
St Dominic, Saltash, Cornwall,
February 28.

From Mr Evan James

Sir, Before I was sent off to my first boarding school in 1919 my father (born 1876) instructed me that my name would be James and that I should never be seen to blub.

When the dreaded day came, as the train drew out of Waterloo station I was sitting in a corner, doing my best to suppress tears. A big boy (Peter Fleming, who was captain of the school, I think), intending to befriend a new boy, came and asked me what my name was. I was well rehearsed with the answer, James, but when the next question was "James what?" all I could do was to blub.

Yours faithfully,
EVAN JAMES,
Upwood Park, Bessels Leigh,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire,
February 25.

Flying tackle

From the Reverend Julian Sullivan

Sir, Asda needs a more aggressive marketing strategy for a predatory biscuit to oust the Penguin (report, February 25). It might start by renaming its rival Peregrine. It is phonetically closer than Pullin but a bird of very different feather.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. SULLIVAN,
St Mary's Vicarage,
42 Charlotte Road, Sheffield.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 1: The Prince Edward, President, this morning attended a screening of "The Journey of a Letter" and the "Gingerbread House" by the Children's Film Unit at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, Piccadilly, London W1.

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Thames FM Studios, Brentnham House, Hampton Wick, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, and was received by Mr David Jacobs (Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 1: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the International Match between Scotland and Ireland at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 1: The Prince of Wales this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Bangladesh.

Mr Stephen Larnport, Lieutenant Commander John Lavery RN and Miss Sandy Henney were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 1: The Duke of Kent,

Patron, the South Bank Foundation, this evening attended a concert by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 2: The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, British Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, and Patron, Voluntary Service Overseas, this morning left Royal Air Force Northolt for visits to Hungary, Turkey, Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, Mongolia, Japan, Russia, Alaska and Canada. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis is in attendance.

Royal engagement

The Queen will give a reception for winners of The Queen's Award for Export and Technology at Buckingham Palace at 6.00. The Duke of York, the Princess Royal, the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent will be present.

Bishop of Lewes

The Rev Wallace Benn, Vicar, Harold Wood, diocese of Chelmsford, is to be Suffragan Bishop of Lewes, diocese of Chichester. He succeeds the Right Rev Ian Candy, who is now Bishop of Peterborough.

Nature notes

Wrens are suddenly singing everywhere, their beak wide open and their whole body vibrating with the effort. A prominent theme in their song is a string of long, sobbing notes.



The blue tit

Blue tits are also in full song: the version most commonly heard is a short, dry trill, but they sometimes produce more musical variations on this. Great spotted woodpeckers are drumming loudly on dead boughs: this is their equivalent of a song to attract a mate and frighten off rivals. Some winter visitors will start moving north this month: redwings gather in flocks in the treets and sing a formless, bubbling

song several weeks before they leave. On young elms in the hedgerows the twigs are coated with furry red flowers, the colour of a wine stain. Dog's mercury is in bloom: it has bright green leaves and clusters of small greenish-yellow flowers, and is found in woods, and under hedges which were once part of ancient woods. The arrow-shaped leaves of cuckoo-pint are growing thick in the ditches alongside young stinging nettles. The first brimstone butterflies have come out of hibernation: with their swift, erratic flight they look like lemon-yellow leaves blowing along the lanes. DJM

Birthdays today

The Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, 65; Mr Charles Brooks, racehorse trainer, 34; Mr Peter Calver, racehorse trainer, 63; Lord John FitzGerald, racehorse trainer, 45; Sir George Gardner, MP, 62; Mr David Glenister, former chief executive, ITC, 61; Dr Rod Hackney, former president, RIBA, 55; Mr Martin Lovett, former member, Amadeus Quartet, 70; Ms Merlyn Lowther, personnel director, Bank of England, 43; Mr Maurice Lynn, former Headmaster, The Oratory School, 46; Professor Angus McGrouther, plastic and reconstructive surgeon, 51; Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, former Lord Provost and Lord-Lieutenant of Edinburgh, 59; Air Vice-Marshal C.G. Maughan, 74; Lord Melish, 84; Mr J.F.X. Miller, Headmaster, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, 47; Mr Stephen Morrison, managing director, LWT Productions, 50; Mr Peter O'Sullivan, racing commentator, 79; Sir Mark Prescott, racehorse trainer, 49; Miss Miranda Richardson, actress, 39; Mr Ronald Searle, artist and cartoonist, 77; the Earl of Southesk, 36; Lord Templeman, 77; Miss Felicia Whitbread, athlete, 36.

Service dinners

250 (Hull) Field Ambulance (Volunteers)
Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Gray, Lieutenant of HM Tower of London and Honorary Colonel 250 (Hull) Field Ambulance (Volunteers), welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel D.L. Willey RADC (V), Commanding Officer, and Mrs Willey, Officers of 250 Field Ambulance (Volunteers) and their ladies at a ladies' dinner night held on Saturday at the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Officers' Mess, within the Tower. Major-General W.R. Short, Director General Army Medical Services, and Brigadier G.R. Jones Territorial Army Advisor to the Director General Army Medical Services, accompanied by their ladies, were the principal guests.

Gulf War Jaguar Pilots

An Association of Gulf War Jaguar Pilots was the principal guest at the 250th Gulf War Memorial Dinner given by officers of the Gulf War Jaguar Pilots Association in Cambridge on Saturday. Wing Commander W. Phton presided.

Forces appointments

Royal Navy & Royal Marines
Captain: R.A. Cotton - Devonport
Commander: R.F.B. Ayers - MOD LONDON 29.8.97; D.C.M. Ferguson - MOD LONDON 29.8.97; M. Kimmons - MOD LONDON 29.8.97; A/Capt 3.6.97; J. Sturges - Dept Of Sea 25.9.97; W.R. Macdonald - CTCRM 25.9.97.
Retirements
Commander R.J. Albery - 25.5.97. Squadron Commander (D): N. Harkness - 7.5.97.

Sir Basil Nield

A Memorial Service for Sir Basil Nield, CBE, DL, will be held in Temple Church, London, on Wednesday, March 12, 1997, at 5pm.



A Grand Tour portrait of John Smyth (1748-1811), a Wakefield wool merchant, painted in Rome by Pompeo Batoni in 1773, which has been acquired by York City Art Gallery where it went on display at the weekend. The £150,000 cost of the portrait was made possible by a £112,500 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Police archaeology team makes arresting discovery at Swindon

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A WILTSHIRE police archaeology team has found remains of a surprisingly Mediterranean Roman villa just south of Swindon. The closest parallels are at Pompeii, a degree of urban sophistication "extremely unusual for a British rural site", according to Bryn Walters, of the Association for Roman Archaeology.

The site, in the valley of the River Og, is being kept secret until it can be made secure from metal detectorists, the local *Ogbourne Times* reports. Finds have included a large double-handled jar, probably for holding beer, and the finely

carved bone handle of a folding razor. The villa "appears to be very like an Italian villa house of the type found at Pompeii". Mr Walters told the *Ogbourne Times*.

A suite of baths has been found, with the hypocaust underfloor heating system and stoking area set into the slope and built over what seems to be an earlier bathhouse. Kitchens dating from the 4th century have also been uncovered, together with a large hall originally paved with flagstones, and what appears to be part of an internal semi-roofed court.

Parch marks in the fields have revealed what are believed to be the footings of garden pergolas leading down

to the Og. The excavators believe that the broad, straight section of the now-dry Og which borders the site was turned into a canal and acted as a river port some 500ft above sea level. An iron object is thought to be a boatman's hook, to launch and berth shallow-draught boats at a landing stage.

The suggestion that the Og Valley was a gathering point for boats and barges which then sailed south five miles to the confluence with the River Kennet at the Roman site of Cunetio, just east of Marlborough, will be controversial: the chalkland streams are not generally thought to have been navigable to that extent in Roman times.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain A.C.P. Ross, RM, and Surgeon Lieutenant Commander S.J. Murray, RN. The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Sir Keith and Lady Ross, of Beaulieu, Hampshire, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Dennis Murray, of Curbar, Derbyshire.

Mr S.H. Bowdler and Miss K.D. Willis. The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs R. Bowdler, of Skelington, Leicestershire, and Kate, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Willis, of Easton-in-Gordale, Airedale.

Mr M.A.V. Boyle and Miss D.G.S. Lushington. The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Anthony and Sheila Boyle, of Dulwich, London, and Daphne, daughter of Roger and Diana Lushington, of Beaulieu, Hampshire.

Mr N.H. Dunnett and Miss S.H. Ferguson. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Dunnett, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Roger Ferguson, of Oxton, Wirral.

Mr N. Groves and Miss K. Morrison. The engagement is announced between Newby, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Groves, of Cobham, Surrey, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr Maxwell Morrison, and Mrs Lesley Morrison, of Kingston, Surrey.

Mr T.G. Shillington and Miss P.M. Kennedy. The engagement is announced between Thomas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Shillington, of Alford, Northern Ireland, and Polly, youngest daughter of Captain and Mrs David Kennedy, of Upper Hilco, Gloucestershire.

Mr S. Wilson and Miss S.M. Baker. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr Ian Wilson, of Pyralis, Surrey, and Mrs Lesley Wilson, of Grange, France, and Sarah, daughter of Mr John Baker, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Mrs Jennifer Lock, of Worlestone, Surrey.

Captain J.A. Woods, R.A.M.C. and Dr J.E. Snell. The engagement is announced between Justin, son of Mrs J.A. Woods, of Surbiton, Middlesex, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Snell, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Today's anniversaries

BIRTHS: Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, Edinburgh, 1847; Sir Henry Wood, conductor and co-founder of the Promenade Concerts, London, 1869; Jean Harlow, actress, Kansas City, 1911.
DEATHS: Francis Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, engineer and canal builder, London, 1803; Arthur Koestler, novelist, committed suicide with his wife, London, 1983; Danny Kaye, actor, Los Angeles, 1987.
Bethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* was published, 1802.
Bizet's opera *Carmen* was first performed, in Paris, 1875.
The US Congress adopted *The Star-Spangled Banner* as the American national anthem, 1931.

Marriages

The Hon Andrew Jolliffe and Miss D.J. Teare. The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Maughold, Ramsey, Isle of Man, of the Hon Andrew Jolliffe, younger son of Lord and Lady Hyton, of Ammerdown, Somerset, to Miss Diana Teare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Clifford Teare, of Ramsey. Father Clement Birch, OSE, officiated.
The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Helen Teare and the Hon Emily Jolliffe. Mr J.J. Powell was best man.

Mr M.S. Hutchinson and Miss S.E.L. Nicholson. The marriage took place on Saturday at Waltham St Lawrence Parish Church, Berkshire, of Mr Mark Hutchinson, son of Sir Peter and Lady Hutchinson, of Melton, Suffolk, to Miss Sarah Nicholson, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Nicholson, of Waltham St Lawrence. The Rev Peter Ralley officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Victoria Ford, Tessa Conington, Victoria Goodhead, Hannah Brantford, Rebecca Brantford, Mr Roland Ford was best man.

Captain S. Bell, RE, and Miss K. Lord. The marriage took place on March 1, 1997, at Peckford Castle Chapel, between Simon Bell and Kayran Lord.

Mr M.J. Gilliat-Smith and Miss J.J. Collins. The marriage took place on February 15, 1997, at St Paul's Church, Canterbury, between Mr Matthew Jolyon Gilliat-Smith, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brendan Gilliat-Smith, of Hadlow, Kent, and Miss Jennifer Jane Collins, younger daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Peter Collins, of Canterbury, Surrey. Canon Robert Crossley officiated, assisted by Father Kevin Taggart.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Katie Dowling, Rory Ryan, Olivia Tarry and Tess Ryan. Mr Dermot Flood was best man.

Mr S.J. Mumford and Mrs S.M. Sutton. The Marriage Eucharist took place on Saturday, March 1, at Great St Mary's, Cambridge, between Simon James Mumford and Susan Mary Sutton. The Rev Canon Christine Farrington and the Rev Dr John Bums officiated.

School news

Rokeby School. An Old Boys' Reunion of Rokeby School, Kingston-upon-Thames, will be held on March 21, 1997, at the School. Tel: 0181 942 7242.

Yateley Manor Preparatory School. Yateley Manor celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year with the opening of the new £1.5 million teaching block. Celebrations include a Garden Party and Grand Jubilee Ball. Old boys and girls and former parents and friends of the school are warmly invited to attend. An accurate register of former pupils who have lost touch with the school will also be established. For further information please telephone 01252 873298.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

See to it, my friends, that no one among you has the witness of a disaster from the living God. Hebrews 3:12

BIRTHS

BEALE. On February 15th to Louise (née Best-Shaw) and Andrew a daughter, Polly Theodora a sister for Rosemarie and Freddie.

BORTH. On 26th February 1997 at St. Thomas's Hospital, SE1, to Chantal (née Coody) and James, a son.

CRADY. Chantal, Sea Borch.

BLACK. On February 25th 1997, to Judith (née Logan) and Stephen, a son, Marcus Robert Black.

STORY. On February 26th to Samantha (née Herlihy) and Jonathan, a son, Benjamin.

WILLIAMS. On February 27th 1997, to Philip (née Lewis) and Philip, two daughters, Charlotte Sophie Louise and Georgia Victoria Rose.

DEATHS

ATYCHISON. Angela (née Groves) died on February 27th 1997, aged 90, after a long illness. Buried at St. Mary's Church, Watlington, Oxford, 2pm. Family flowers only please. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory to St. Mary's, Watlington, Oxford (OX12 6AA).

ARCHER. Catherine, Sarah died on the 26th of February 1997 to her husband, a devoted wife who will be greatly missed by everyone. Dear Catherine your beauty, charm, humour and delightful smile will never be forgotten. All my love and gratitude for a lifetime of loving care and attention. May you rest in peace all my love George. 01424 730418.

BEST. On 25th February peacefully, five of Hay-on-Wye aged 97 years. Widow of Ray Best, formerly of Pwllheli, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, and Mother of Joanna and the late Gerald. Services to be held at Pwllheli Church on Friday, 7th March, at 3pm. Flowers to Mrs Best, Westalling Street, Pwllheli.

BOLTON. Heather Karen (née Groves) died on February 22nd, aged 33 following a long, courageous and dignified battle against leukaemia. Adored and beloved wife of Neil, much loved daughter of David and Yvonne. Heather was a wonderful, kind and generous woman who will be sorely missed and never forgotten by all those who knew her. Buried at St. Mary's Church, Watlington, Oxford, 2pm. Family flowers only please. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory to St. Mary's, Watlington, Oxford (OX12 6AA).

GRAY. Joan, on February 27th aged 84, peacefully after a short illness, beloved wife of the late John Gray (Johnnie's Horse), loving mother of Lucy and David, and sister of John, Peter, Sophie and Charlie. Private cremation. Family flowers only - please no wreaths. A thanksgiving service will follow on Tuesday, March 4th, 11.15am. Donations to the Cancer Campaign, 11, St. Michael's Church, Heckfield, Hants, RG26 3AA.

HUMPHREY. Gordon (Freddie) died suddenly on 27th February 1997, dearest husband of Margaret, Father of David and John, and brother of John. Buried at St. Mary's Church, Watlington, Oxford, 2pm. Family flowers only please. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory to St. Mary's, Watlington, Oxford (OX12 6AA).

JOHN. Alfred Graham, on 19th January 1997, aged 86, husband of the late Rose, and greatly missed by all his family.

DEATHS

COOK. On 25th February peacefully in his 94th year, Major General Robert Cook, aged 94, with his much loved family, after an inspirational and courageous battle, he is beloved husband of Hilary, father of Tim, Sarah and James, and grandfather of Oliver and James. Private funeral service to be held at St. Anne's Church, Watlington, Oxford, on Wednesday 5th March at 11.30am. Donations to the Cancer Campaign, 11, St. Michael's Church, Heckfield, Hants, RG26 3AA.

COWPER. On Friday 28th February, Harry Cowper, aged 84 years died peacefully at Beaumont Lodge, Beaumont, Bedfordshire. Beloved wife of Anne and Julia and a much loved cousin and friend. Funeral service to be held at St. Anne's Church, Watlington, Oxford, on Wednesday 5th March at 11.30am. Donations to the Cancer Campaign, 11, St. Michael's Church, Heckfield, Hants, RG26 3AA.

MACDONALD. On February 27th 1997, peacefully, James, loving father of Jane, David, and Robert, and grandfather of many. Buried at St. Mary's Church, Watlington, Oxford, 2pm. Family flowers only please. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory to St. Mary's, Watlington, Oxford (OX12 6AA).

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DEATHS

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OBITUARIES

SIR HORACE CUTLER

Sir Horace Cutler, OBE, leader of the Greater London Council, 1977-81, died yesterday aged 84. He was born on July 28, 1912.

Instantly recognisable with his pointed beard, sharp suits and flamboyant bowties, Horace Cutler was for three decades a swashbuckling, influential figure in the government of London. His service to the capital spanned a continuous 20 years, spent variously on the Greater London Council, Middlesex County Council, and the council of his own borough of Harrow; at one point he sat on all three bodies at once. He was a passionate believer in the importance of local government.

The 1970s and 1980s were an exciting time for the GLC. Motorways that had been under construction for eight years at last reached the London borders. The Thames Barrier neared completion. As leader of the council, Cutler took over a local authority with a bigger budget than all but 19 countries in the United Nations. Its strategic powers embraced the 32 boroughs of Greater London, about the size of a country town.

It was an ideal forum for Cutler's unique, rather maverick mix of talents. Confident, impatient, with a zeal for innovation, he was an early and instinctive Thatcherite. Margaret Thatcher, in turn, drew inspiration from his achievements at the GLC when she became Prime Minister in 1979; she took his London record as proof that, given the right leadership and motivation, it was possible to "get things done".

The manner in which Cutler got things done was not always uncontroversial. He was a man of determined and forthright views, who once publicly denounced the Board of London Transport as "an archaic, god-awful bunch of ineffectual wets". He was at his desk each day by 7 o'clock, anxious to get on. His desire for quick results occasionally brought him into conflict not only with the entrenched bureaucracies of County Hall but with the more cumbersome machinery of national government at Westminster across the river.

Cutler was a shrewd user of the media to promote his cause, but some of the attention he himself received was less than welcome. Aspects of his career as a property developer led to accusations of conflict of interest and improper use of information, and there were attacks too over the personal election fund, financed by some of London's biggest construction companies, with which he had supported his campaign for office in 1977.

Suggestions of impropriety were not substantiated, however, and there was no deny-



ing the effectiveness of Cutler's political approach. At the GLC, he saved millions by cutting staff; he reduced the number of council committees by more than two thirds; he paid off millions of pounds of council debt; he launched an enthusiastic programme of housing sales. Only in trying to tackle the deeply institutionalised inefficiencies of London Transport did he fail to achieve his goals.

It was enough to bring him a knighthood from a Prime Minister whose policies and beliefs he had espoused almost before she herself had conceived them. But it was not enough to stop London voters returning a Labour GLC in May 1981.

The new council soon embarked on an expensive programme of high-profile left-wing policies that ran directly counter to everything Cutler had stood for. Incensed by the "Marxist takeover of London", and repeatedly frustrated in his efforts to get the better of the new Labour leader Ken Livingstone, whose skill as a political showman more than matched his own, Cutler stood down a year later as leader of the Conservatives on the GLC.

Horace Walter Cutler was the son of a Hertfordshire builder who saw and capitalised on the outward spread of the railways, especially the Metropolitan Line. Albert Cutler reckoned, correctly, that Londoners would want to live near green fields and commute to London daily to work. Setting out on a bicycle that he had built himself, he identified land suitable for housebuilding and likely to come onto the market; he bought it before others had spotted its potential.

Horace Cutler, the fourth of seven children, inherited his father's sense of industry and enterprise. He was educated at the local primary school in Tottenham and at Hereford Cathedral School.

There was no question of his going on to university. His father died as a result of trying to help in a road accident and left part of his building business to Horace and to an elder brother. The brother was not a building enthusiast and Horace saw that his own immediate involvement was essential. The brothers built hundreds of houses on land left to them by their father. The exterior of the houses remained much the

same, but Horace favoured a more spacious interior design. Some estate agents in Harrow will still advertise one of these properties as a "Cutler house".

The Second World War found Cutler in the Royal Navy, serving in minesweepers in the Western Approaches, having turned down the offer of an early army commission because he loved the sea. After the war, the family housing business continued, but at a much slower pace. Building materials were in short supply and Cutler's interest waned.

He started up his own insurance business, which he sold at a good profit years later to one of the big groups. Then he was early into the new business of coin-operated laundromats: from a modest start of a few shops he spread out across north London.

At the same time he was buying up land. As his father had anticipated the outward march of the railways, so the son was quick to spot the need for service stations, restaurants and shops as towns were bypassed by new roads, and motorways diverged from the old routes they had replaced.

It was pure speculation. The

land was held for years, until it could be sold and redeveloped. It became an extremely profitable business, with one parcel of land in Hampshire eventually being sold to a public body for £1.5 million; Cutler was leader of the GLC at the time of the sale, and questions were raised by his Labour opponents and in the press, but an investigation revealed no irregularity.

Cutler drew on his experience as a property developer throughout his political career. He was elected to Harrow Borough Council in 1952, becoming chairman of the planning committee two years later and chairman of the housing committee in 1955, the year in which he was also elected to Middlesex County Council, where he likewise went on to chair the housing and planning committees. At the GLC too, to which he was elected in 1964, he took a particular interest in planning. He was also, for 19 years from 1967 to 1986, a member of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

His abilities quickly took him to the highest levels in local government. He served as leader of Harrow Borough Council, 1961-65, leader of Middlesex County Council, 1963-65, and leader of the GLC 1977-81.

His ambitions were not always confined to the local level, however, and in 1960 he tried for the safe Tory parliamentary seat of Harrow West, but Sir Jack Page was chosen as candidate instead. Cutler was disappointed, but not bitter. At the 1970 general election he contested the Labour marginal of Willesden East, but was unsuccessful.

Cutler was appointed OBE in 1963, and knighted in 1979. He might have hoped for a peerage when the GLC was abolished by Margaret Thatcher, but one was not forthcoming. It has been suggested that if he had been in the House of Lords at the time, the introduction of the so-called poll tax might never have been attempted; with his experience of local affairs he would have seen its pitfalls clearly, and spelt them out succinctly and with humour in advance.

In his later years Cutler was involved with a company which purchased and managed retirement homes for the elderly. He spent long periods of time at the palatial villa he had built for himself on Ibiza. He also had a house in Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire, but he would still spend occasional nights at his Westminster flat in order to attend concerts at the Festival Hall. His last years were dogged by illness.

He married, first, Betty Martin (they later divorced) and secondly, Christiane Muthesius. Both survive him, with a son from his first marriage and a son and three daughters from his second.

ISABELLE LUCAS

Isabelle Lucas, film, stage and television actress, was found dead at her home in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, on February 24 aged 69. She was born on December 3, 1927.

HER sardonic performance as Norman Beaton's long-suffering wife, Pearl, in the 1976 television sitcom *The Fosters* made Isabelle Lucas the first black actress in Britain to become a national figure. Yet long before fame came to her unexpectedly on the verge of 50, she had built a distinguished reputation as a serious stage actress, appearing in some of the National Theatre's finest productions.

Born into a poor family in Toronto, Ontario, Isabelle Harriet Lucas made her earliest appearances as an amateur in Toronto stage productions of *Show Boat* and *The Villain Still Pursues*. She came to London in 1954 to study singing with Mark Raphael, and made an explosive West End debut at the Piccadilly Theatre on April 26, 1955, in the revue *The Jazz Train*.

During the revue's post-London tour, she met Maurice Jennings, a saxophonist in the theatre orchestra and later a leading figure in the Musicians' Union. They were married in 1957, the year in which she made her film debut with John Grogan in *Miracle in Soho*.

In 1959 her astonishingly powerful soprano voice stole some of the thunder from Elisabeth Welch and Millicent Martin in the West End musical *The Crooked Mile*. Then came her first appearance in a straight play, with *Constance Cummings* in *The Genius and the Goddess*, directed by Frank Hauser from an Aldous Huxley novel; it transferred from the Oxford Playhouse to the Comedy Theatre in 1962.

Her success in this led to a series of dramatic roles on television, including *No Deadly Medicine* and *Song of the Civil War*, with the young

Donald Sutherland. She also became the first black Martha in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at the Connaught Theatre, Worthing, before returning to the West End in 1966 to play Barbra Streisand's maid, Emma, in the London production of *Funny Girl* at the Prince of Wales Theatre.

In 1969 she made her debut with the National Theatre company, appearing at the Old Vic with Derek Jacobi in

out the photo-call, one of her breasts had been visible to the cameras, an accident she regarded as a great joke on herself.

In 1975, she appeared with Jimmy Jewel and Alfred Marks in Neil Simon's comedy, *The Sunshine Boys*, at the Piccadilly Theatre, followed by the gigantic success of her television partnership with Norman Beaton in *The Fosters*. This led to a similar series without Beaton, *Mixed Blessings*, in 1978, and then to a third sitcom, *Agony*, in which she played the outrageous Velma, "a bald, black lesbian mother".

A number of major international films included *Outland*, with Sean Connery, in 1981; *A Caribbean Mystery*, with Helen Hayes, in 1983; and *Ellis Island*, with Faye Dunaway and Richard Burton, in 1984. Her last West End musicals were *Look to the Rainbow* in 1985, and *Trinidad Sisters* in 1988.

By then, Lucas had joined the cast of *EastEnders*, first as a district nurse, then returning to Albert Square in the 1990s as the censorious mother of Della, Walford's black lesbian hairdresser.

There were two more hugely successful television series: *May to December*, with Anton Rodgers, and *Desmonds*, in which she was reunited with Norman Beaton, as a vamps old flame whose unscheduled visits created havoc.

Her final stage appearance, in 1993, as the Nurse in Dame Judi Dench's production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Open Air Theatre, Regents Park, confirmed the view, long held by critics and colleagues alike, that she was an actress of outstanding power and accomplishment.

She made one final television appearance in 1995 in an episode of *The Bill*. The last years of her life were clouded by increasing ill-health, but she was sustained by her long and deeply happy marriage to Maurice Jennings, who survives her. They had no children.



Shaw's *Back to Methuselah*, and then as Nurse Lake in the world premiere of Peter Nichols's black comedy, *The National Health*. Two further National Theatre productions followed, with Edward Woodward in *Cyrano* at the Cambridge Theatre in 1970, and with Norman Beaton and Maureen Lipman in *Tyger*, a musical celebration of William Blake at the New Theatre in 1971.

At Drury Lane in 1972 she made a memorable Mammy, the role played on screen by Butterfly McQueen, in Harold Fielding's musical version of *Gone with the Wind*. A year later, she returned to the Old Vic as the leader of the Bacchantes in the National's production of *The Bacchae*, in which she strongly disapproved of Peter Hall's insistence on nudity for the female characters. Defying him, she appeared carefully draped, only to discover that through-

DAVID MITCHELL

David Mitchell, Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, 1946-92, died on February 2 aged 82. He was born on November 9, 1914.

DAVID MITCHELL was a devoted college tutor of the kind constantly reported as on the verge of extinction but which still thrives, happily, unobserved, within most college walls.

His interests ranged in all directions: from art history, ecology and wine, to music (above all Mozart) and ornithology. These characteristics, allied with his generous assumption that each of his pupils was a "marvellous human being", made him a demanding, rewarding and inspiring tutor.

David Mitchell won a scholarship to Merchant Taylors' in 1927 and went on to another in Classics at Hertford College. A double first was followed by the John Locke Prize and a senior scholarship to St John's, where he taught and researched until the war.

Volunteering in September 1939, he was commissioned the following year and went out to the East as a subaltern in the 129th Field Regiment (Royal Artillery) with the 51st (Highland) Division in the summer of 1942. He saw continuous action (for which he was mentioned in dispatches) in India and Burma until, in late 1944, he was posted to Simla to learn Japanese, which he then used to interrogate surrendered Japanese officers in Bangkok.

On demobilisation in 1946 and after considering a career in oriental art at the British Museum, he was elected to a fellowship in philosophy at



Worcester College and at once established himself as a stimulating tutor in a college which, perhaps, had been somewhat dormant during the war.

In 1962 he published *An Introduction to Logic*. In this, as in his general philosophical work, he sometimes felt that what he was doing was too much out of the fashionable trend of Oxford philosophy to attract the attention it deserved. Developments in logic and philosophy of language often left him alienated. As time went by he turned increasingly to ethics with an Aristotelian inspiration.

As Tutor for Admissions at Worcester, he insisted on tutors having the final say in who was accepted, and was indifferent to the social and scholastic origins of candidates, though opposed to positive discrimination. He did much to raise academic standards. Later, as first Dean of Graduates, he campaigned successfully to raise graduates from their status as second-class citizens.

In his later years he took over the running of the college appeal. Here his vigour and

indefatigable enthusiasm served the college very well. He relinquished this work only when he was eighty.

In 1971, as Senior Fellow he became Vice-Provost, which he retained until his retirement in 1982. He was wine steward of the Senior Common Room for thirty-five years.

Outside the college, as Junior Proctor, 1961-62, he was an active member of the powerful party in Congregation which defeated the university's proposal to build a 260ft tower in the University Parks to house the Zoology Department (Maurice Bowra's "touch of San Gimignano in the Parks").

He was an invited member of the committee of inquiry set up by the Senate of Warwick University in 1970 after "the troubles" on the campus. His experience of university government contributed greatly to the liberal tone of the committee's report, which helped to rebuild confidence.

He was a school governor successively of Bromsgrove, Canford and Haberdashers', Elstree, and on the education advisory committee of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. On sabbatical leaves he taught at Brown and Dartmouth in the United States and at the University of Hong Kong.

A keen traveller — he drove to Rome at 80 — and a lifelong collector of pictures, he built up a shrewdly chosen selection of minor classical oils and an enviable range of English watercolours.

He is survived by Barbara Davies, whom he married in 1947, herself later Ancient History Fellow at St Anne's, and their four children — three sons and a daughter.

PROFESSOR MALCOLM CHARLTON

Malcolm Charlton, Professor Emeritus of Engineering, University of Aberdeen, died on February 1 aged 73. He was born on September 1, 1923.

ONE of the last survivors of the so-called hard industrial route into engineering, his career in 1939 as an apprentice with the then famous Doncaster Locomotive Works. Then, having gained an intermediate degree from London University by part-time study, followed by an honours degree in engineering completed by the time he was 20, he joined the Radar Research Establishment, TRE as he was known, at Malvern, where he developed his lifelong interest in structural mechanics.

In 1946 he joined the world-renowned firm of electric pow-

er scheme consulting engineers, Merz and McLellan, in their Newcastle upon Tyne offices. He became involved in many aspects of their work, in particular hydroelectric power generation, but he maintained and developed his interest in structural analysis, particularly in eddy principles in the theory of structures.

Thomas Malcolm Charlton's career as an academic began in 1954 when he was appointed to a university lectureship in engineering at Cambridge. Five years later he was elected a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College. There he was able to indulge his love of structural mechanics and of teaching, in which he excelled, as well as to enjoy the social life and intrigue of university and college life.

In a varied career he found himself, on the one hand, involved in organising the



engineering department's research projects and, on the other, one of three fellows present at the secret burial of Oliver Cromwell's embalmed head in the antechapel of Sidney Sussex College, where the Lord Protector of England

had become a Fellow Commoner in 1604.

In 1963 he was appointed to the Chair of Civil Engineering at Queen's University, Belfast. He took a leading role in developing teaching and research and at the same time played his part in university administration, including a period as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

He was professionally active both in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland. When the Ulster Defence Regiment was formed in 1970 he joined the advisory council and he was a committed member until 1971, by which time he had left Northern Ireland. During this period he published two important books, *Model Analysis of Plane Frameworks and Principles of Structural Analysis*.

From 1970 until his early retirement because of ill-

health in 1979, Charlton held the Jackson Chair of Engineering in the University of Aberdeen. The continued existence of the department had been in doubt after the previous holder of the chair had retired. But Jackson's considerable contribution and introduction of a new course changed all this.

After early retirement, Jackson left Aberdeen and went to live in Ledbury where he wrote *A History of the Theory of Structures in the Nineteenth Century* (1982), his seventh book. Finally he moved to Burwell, near Cambridge, where he returned to the life of Sidney Sussex College and continued to write papers on the history of structural analysis.

A close family man, he is survived by his wife Valerie, whom he married in 1950, and by two of their three sons.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Noel Baker, Rector, Kingston and Frocester, to be Priest-in-charge, Eastington and Frocester, and Priest-in-charge, Southwold and Harstead and Morston. Valence w Whitminster (Gloucester).
The Rev Richard Bentley, Team Rector, East Ham w Upton Park, St Alban (Chelmsford), to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Peterham and Chaplain, HM Prison, Litchmere House (Southwark).
The Rev William Bown, Priest-in-charge, Sharpness w Parton and St Austrey, to be also Priest-in-charge, Slimbridge (Gloucester).
The Rev Derek Carpenter, Rector, St George, Beckenham (Rochester), to be also an Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral.
The Rev Thomas Caswell, Assistant Curate, Norwood, Sheffield, to be Priest-in-charge, St Cecilia, Burton Cross, Sheffield.
The Rev John Clegg, Rector, Poulton-le-Sands w Morecambe St Laurence, to be Priest-in-charge, St Paul, Grange over Sands, and Team Rector-designate of the

Carmel Peninsula Team Ministry (Cardiff).
The Rev Richard Collins, Assistant Curate, Whitcham to be Assistant Curate within the Berrisham Team Ministry, w responsibility for the High and Low Teams (Durham).
The Rev Roger Collinson, to be NSM, Appleby in Westmorland and Ormside (Carlisle).
The Rev Sue Cumming, Lecturer at St Mary and St Catharine, Nottingham, to be Chaplain's Assistant, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham (Southwell).
The Rev Sheila Dixon, Assistant Curate, Ordsall All Hallows, and Rector, St Albans (Southwell), to be Priest-in-charge, Sutton w Trent and Marham (Southwell).
The Rev Arthur Driver, Vicar, St Margaret, Putney, to be Vicar, St Paul, Streatham (Southwark).
The Rev Christopher Dunkley, Vicar, St Aidan's, Leicester, to be Vicar, St Luke's, Holbrooks (Coventry).

The Rev Anthony Everett, Curate-in-charge, St John the Baptist, Malden, to be Vicar, St Alban, Streatham Park (Southwark).
The Rev Sheila Fletcher, Assistant Curate, Dringhouses, to be half-time Priest-in-charge, Sutton-on-the-Forest (York).
The Rev Heather Fullerton, Assistant Curate, Colwich w Great Haywood, to be Team Vicar, Designate, Swindon and Himley, in the Wombourne Team Ministry (Lichfield).
Canon Martin Goodall, Vicar, St Philip, Cheam Common, to be Vicar, St Andrew, Coulsdon (Southwark).
The Rev Robert Hardwick, Assistant Curate, Beeston (Southwell), to be Vicar, Scawby and Redbourne and Hibaldstow (Lincoln).
The Rev Peter Hart, Assistant Curate, Shipley St Peter (Bradford), to be Team Vicar, St Martin's, Walsall Team Ministry (Lichfield).

The Rev David Helm, Chaplain w the Worcestershire Industrial Mission (Worcester), to be Chaplain to the Chemical Industry, Teesside Industrial Mission (York).

Resignations and retirements
The Rev Peter Canning, Vicar, Harshill, Nuneaton (Coventry), retired November 31, 1996, on grounds of ill-health.
The Rev Dennis Crowley, Rector, Finchampstead (Oxford), retired January 31.
The Rev Peter Ford, Assistant Chaplain in Norway (Europe) to retire March 31.
The Rev Roy Hibbert, Rector, Newson w Longford, Chetwynd and Forth (Lichfield), retired January 31.
The Rev Robert Jones, Vicar, Werrington and Garton, on the Wolds w Kirkburr (resigned as Rural Dean of Harthill (York) January 31).
The Rev Louise Lancaster, Curate (NSM), St John the Baptist w St Michael and All Angels, Clarendon Park, Leicester (Leicester), resigned February 12 with permission to officiate, same diocese.

FATAL FISTICUFFS AT ETON

On Sunday last, about the hour of two o'clock, two young gentlemen, collegians of Eton, the Hon. F.A. Cooper and Mr. Wood, were in the playground when some words arose between them, and they pushed each other. Who gave the first assault is differently stated; but from words they proceeded to blows, and had fought for several minutes, when the captain came up and separated them. It was subsequently determined that they should meet on the following afternoon, and terminate their difference by a pugilistic encounter.

The majority of the scholars were present to witness the battle, and the combatants, stripped at four o'clock on Monday afternoon and commenced fighting. Mr. Cooper was smaller in stature than his opponent, his age was 15 years, and his opponent, who was half a head taller, was nearly 17. Mr. Wood had the advantage in point of strength, but the quickness and precision of Mr. Cooper were remarkable for one so young, and he declared that he would never give in.

Some of the backers had brought a quantity of brandy in bottles into the field, and the second of Mr. Cooper, in the eleventh round, poured a considerable quantity down Mr.

ON THIS DAY

March 3, 1825

According to the coroner's report, "pugilistic contests" were common among the scholars of Eton and of all other public schools, "the conqueror always rendering the hand of friendship to his opponent".

Cooper's throat... The young men continued, fighting from four until nearly six o'clock, and when they were in a state of exhaustion, they were constantly plied with neat brandy... They fought sixty rounds, and at the end of the last round, Mr. Cooper fell heavily upon his head and never spoke afterwards... As soon as his death was known, expresses were sent off to the Earl of Shaftesbury and other relations of the deceased to inform them of the lamentable catastrophe.

After long consultation, the coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Mr. Wood, the principal, and Mr. Alexander Wellesley Lettis, his second.

From an adjoining column:

Box-street. — Yesterday, a man who stated his name to be Martin Jones, and that he a master smith in a small way of business at Harrow, came to this office, to claim the protection of the magistrates for himself, his family, and property, against the violence of a great number of the young gentlemen at Harrow School, who had, for several days past, assembled about his dwelling, with bludgeons and other weapons; and not only threatened to murder him and his son, but had actually demolished part of his house...

He said that about 150 boys came down, all armed. "A boy told me they were coming, and being really afraid of my life, I ran over to an opposite public-house for safety. They beat the boy across the shoulders for telling. They surrounded the public-house and swore they would have me out. They called out, 'That is the old b— that went to Dr. Butler, and noised.' I can bring plenty of witnesses to prove it."

At this time, Dr. Butler, Mr. Evans, and another of the masters came down; the doctor ordered them to disperse, and declared that every one who attempted to annoy me should be instantly expelled from the school...

Moon sets 11.22 am Moon rises 2.17 am Manchester 5.51 pm to 6.50 am
 Penzance 6.08 pm to 7.00 am

NEW MOON MARCH 9

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